

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Warbler

Student Theses & Publications

Spring 2021

2021 Warbler

Eastern Illinois University

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Walsworth



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Hello, dear reader.

We have come a long way this year. At times it seemed nearly impossible, and yet here we are. You’re probably wondering why this is here and not a table of contents page of some sort, but we’re here to take you back to the beginning of the year. To show you our thoughts while making this book.

In the beginning, we all moved into our residence halls with hope in our hearts, and our heads held high. After a summer of lockdowns and quarantines, we all felt a sense of normalcy fall into place. Our team settled into the newsroom, excitedly discussing ideas for the book to each other—finally face to face after so many zoom calls and emails. We were stuck trying to figure out what our theme would be: Worst Case Scenario Book (for the year had truly felt like a worst-case scenario) or something else. A theme to embody the year of online classes mixed with hybrid and in-person classes. In a stroke of inspiration, one of the staff members had proposed “Streaming 2020,” since we have been streaming our classes, social activities and TV shows.

With nodding heads and ideas buzzing in the air, we moved the planning stages and what we should cover. After all, it was going to be an interesting year. As we sat, drumming our fingers on the tables, we realized all too quickly that we have hit a roadblock: nothing was happening. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, it was nearly impossible to hold any event in person, and so we went back and forth:

“What about the music festival?”

“No, too many people.”

While we kept spinning ideas, a spread we usually think nothing of silenced us: the memorial page. Would anyone on our campus succumb to the virus? Would we have to memorialize a professor? A BSW, kitchen staff, or office staff? Who would be on the page? Whose tragedy would we record in our pages?

We sat in silence for a moment, letting it sink in, before deciding that we would deal with the memorial page accordingly, if or when someone had passed. We each pondered what to do with the planning the pages quietly; when it came to us: if nothing is happening, then we would report on the things that were missing. We would report on the things that weren't able to happen, and if something did happen, we'd write a story for that as well.

This book tells the story of how we persisted in a time of online classes and pandemic paranoia. This book tells your personal stories—told through you: the reader, the quarantined, the athlete, the freshman and the senior.

These are the stories that happened when nothing else was.

Walsworth

Loading Yearbook...





News 2020-2021

August

21 - PROWL

24 - Black Lives Matter Week, organized by Morgan Colvin, a graduate student in public administration and public policy, and Shyra Bluminberg, a senior secondary English education major, started with a chalking event on the Doudna steps.

26-27 - COVID-19 testing was available in the South Quad for students.

28 - About 200 people met at the North entrance of Booth Library and marched with Black Lives Matter, organized by three track and field athletes: Riley Baker, a junior physical education major, Payton Powell, a junior business marketing major, and Chase Schmitt, a sophomore physical education major.

29 - Two groups rallied at the Coles County Courthouse, one called "Back the Blue" and one, a Black Lives Matter protest organized by Eastern students, including Brianna Hull-Dennis, a sophomore political science and public relations major.

September

14 - President David Glassman asked the University Naming Committee to consider changing the name of Douglas Hall.

16 - The Café in Klehm Hall, run by hospitality and tourism, nutrition and dietetics, and FCS teacher certification students, opened for takeout only. It was open from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays this semester.

16 - Brother Jed Smock and his fellow campus preachers set up camp in the Library Quad.

17 - Eastern's Latino Heritage Month, with its theme "Unidos somos más fuertes / United We Are Stronger," began with a Zumba event on Facebook Live.

22 - Sheila Simons, a public health professor and graduate coordinator working with Eastern's contact tracing efforts, told the faculty senate that since July 1, 472 people had been put in quarantine on campus.

24 - Michael Perri, a senior political science major, will be student government executive vice president, and Skylar Coffey, a graduate student in political science, will be student vice president of student affairs.

30 - Cosmic Bowling Night was held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the MLK Union bowling lanes with free pizza and drinks. To make sure everyone was safe, hand sanitizer stations, face masks and social distancing were required. The event was part of limited Homecoming Week activities due to the pandemic.

October

1 - The Clothes Closet, which offers free business casual clothing for students who may need interviewing and internship clothing, is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in 1210 McAfee, the Student Disability Services Office.

5 - Noor Ul Haash Khamisani, a senior English major, has been declared Eastern's student body president after her opponent, Justin Richards, a senior digital technology major, conceded the position and accepted the position of vice president of academic affairs. Khamisani was declared the winner 195-178 over Justin Richards in a special online election in September before it was contested.

6 - About 170 students registered for Career Services' annual Job and Internship Fair, which was held online. The event included interviews and half-hour group sessions to learn more about various employers.

7 - Betsy Jewell, business manager for The Daily Eastern News, discussed the history of one-sided news channels, Bryan Murley, an associate journalism professor, discussed fake news, and Shawn Peoples, Title IX coordinator and director of Civil Rights & Diversity, spoke on freedom of speech and how it can be used on Eastern's campus during a new Fireside Chat series sponsored by the office of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism.

9 - In a ceremony, Morgan Colvin, a political science graduate student, and Shyra Bluminberg, a senior English education major, raised a Black Lives Matter flag on the new "We are EIU" flagpole, dedicated to recognizing diversity at Eastern.

12 - Members of EIU Pride and employees from the Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity were on the library quad from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help students through a rainbow door in recognition of National Coming Out Day.

21 - The Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity's International Pronouns Day offered buttons and information to promote the normalization of sharing and using individuals' preferred pronouns.

November

16 - President Glassman informed the campus community that although the campus will remain open, beginning Nov. 30, all classes will be online-only for the remainder of the fall semester. In addition, the traditional spring break week has been canceled as well.

17 - Lines stayed long for a free COVID-19 testing event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot across from Lawson Hall.

December

3 - Students Starr Smith, Morgan Colvin, Keshyra Bluminberg, Marcus Powell and Maria Cruz were part of a “Race Matters at EIU: Voices from the Yard” virtual panel moderated by Tim Abel, Tarble education manager. Some professors, including Carole Collins Ayanlaja and Catherine Polydore, took part as well.

January

7 - President Glassman issued a statement condemning incidents at the nation’s Capitol as well as words said by U.S. Rep. Mary Miller, who quoted Hitler.
11 - Mona Davenport, office of Inclusion and Academic Engagement, Nyjah Lane, a master’s student in college student affairs, and Anne Flaherty, vice president for Student Affairs, raised a flag on the We Are EIU flagpole with the quote, “yesterday’s dream, tomorrow’s reality,” to honor Martin Luther King Jr.
12 - The first free COVID testing of the year took place indoors in the Student Rec Center and outdoors at the Northwest corner of the Rec Center.
19 - EIU began conducting free weekly COVID surveillance testing with a 24-hour turnaround time for test results. Each week, 500 students and employees are randomly selected for testing from 9 a.m. to noon on Court 5 of the Student Rec Center.
20 - The office of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism hosted a virtual inauguration watch party for the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. About 200,000 American flags were on the lawn in front of the Capitol to represent the people who would usually watch the ceremony.
27 - Kate Alexander, Kassandra Amaya, Marcus Powell, Francesco Romano, Seth Yeakel, Prabin Karki, Muhammad Ibrahim, Subodh Khanal and Jessica Johnson were sworn in as student senators. Ashley Bartley, a senior exercise science major, was appointed to the Student Dean Advisory Council.

February

2 - The first Wellness Day, one of five throughout the semester, to take the place of the 2021 Spring Break.
15 - Due to lots of snow and freezing temperature, classes were canceled. In addition, Booth Library and the MLK Union closed in the early eveing. And Late Night Pizza in Thomas Dining was canceled, too.

March

1 - Starr Winburn and Justice McGruder, graduate students in counseling, and Nyjah Lane, a graduate student in college student affairs, raised a 19th Amendment flag in honor of Women’s History and Awareness Month.
2 - For the first time this semester, the Student Senate has enough senators present to meet its quorum and conduct business, as new senators Nidhi Patel, Jasmine Yusef and Max Rue were sworn in. Kent Martin, Eastern’s police chief, was the guest speaker.
3 - Mona Davenport, executive director of the Office of Inclusion and Academic Engagement, sent an email that contained the personal information of over 1,400 students to approximately 399 students. Although Eastern’s ITS extracted unopened emails associated with the attachment, many students opened and shared the information.
5 - Lori Patton Davis’s keynote address, “Race Matters for Inclusive Excellence,” kicked off the annual EIUnity Diversity Conference. She is an Ohio State University professor studying race and racism in higher education and Black women in social and educational contexts.
8 - According to an article in The Daily Eastern News, about 75 students took part in “It’s not Unofficial” parties on Fourth and Sixth streets over the weekend, most with no masks or social distancing.
18 - Wellness Day No. 3. About 75 AFSCME, UPI and Trades union members gathered at the University Ballroom to show support for the Service bargaining team negotiating a new contract. The team represents Eastern’s building service workers, cooks, kitchen laborers, clerical workers and technical workers, who have been negotiating a new contract for about eight months.
18-April 1 - The Naming Committee looking into changing or retaining the name of Douglas Hall met virtually with seven groups representing various stakeholders, including students, alumni, community members and faculty, throughout this two-week period to hear opinions.
19 - In response to continued attacks on Asian Americans and a shooting in Atlanta that left eight people dead, including six women of Asian descent, President Glassman issued a statement of personal and organizational support to the Asian population on campus and in the community.
24 - Construction management majors Rhonda Rogers and Raven Ramsey won the What’s Your Problem Pitch competition sponsored by the Booth Library Center for Student Innovation. Political science majors Kayla Crowder and Jerimiah Boyd-Johnson took second, broadcast journalism major Amayah Farley took third and health administration major Esperanza Murillo took fourth.
25 - About 50 people attended Let’s Spill the Tea in the University Ballroom with tea, snacks and paints. The UB event was for Women’s History Month.
29 - About 20 students attended an open mic event at the 7th Street Underground in the MLK Union, sponsored by Voices in Motion, a poetry group.
30 - About 50 people attended a rally on Lincoln Avenue in front of Old Main at show support for Eastern’s building service workers, cooks, kitchen laborers, clerical workers and technical workers, who have been negotiating for a new contract.

April

1 - Starr Winburn and Justice McGruder, both counseling graduate students raised a flag to honor Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month.
9-10 - EIU students were bused from campus out to the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center for the single dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
12 - Jinhee Lee, an associate professor of history, was one of several people who spoke on racism and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during a virtual candlelight vigil. The event was sponsored by Student Government.
12-23 - SACIS, a group that provides counseling, advocacy and support for all victims of sexual assault and their significant others, is receiving donations of toiletries, feminine products, sheets and blankets and other items, being collected by the office of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism
13 - Students received free samplings of Asian teas in the union from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
15 - Students were given large clay pots to paint at a University Board event called, “Paint, Plant, and Sip” in the University Ballroom. It is part of a Panther Bash event featured a scavenger hunt, bingo, cosmic bowling, laser tag and a virtual gaming tournament April 16 and 17.
19 - Jacqueline Williams defeated Jaclyn Thomas 228-132 to win the Student Body presidential election. Other executive board officials will be Payton Ade, student executive vice president; Terrence Trimuel, student vice president of Student Affairs; Prabin Karki, student vice president of Academic Affairs.
23 - The Board of Trustees voted to increase rates for tuition, housing and dining and fees for the union/bond, athletics, Lantz/O’Brien operations, the Rec Center and Grant-in-Aid for next year. The union representing Eastern’s building service workers, cooks, kitchen laborers, clerical workers and technical workers protested outside, its third public during its contract negotiations with the university, which have been ongoing since June.
26 - Students who want to use a credit/no credit option for spring semester classes may change the up to two classes from the standard letter grade to a credit/no credit grade. Grades that would typically be an A, B or C would change to a credit grade. D or F grades would be changed to a no credit grade.
27 - Sheila Simons, Eastern’s COVID-19 investigator and a professor in the department of public health, was presented with the 2020 Luis Clay-Mendez Distinguished Service Award.
27-30 - Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were available in Court 6 of the Student Recreation Center for all EIU employees, annuitants and students age 18 and older.
28 - Eastern’s Naming Committee voted unanimously to recommend to administration that the university rename Douglas Hall.





Eastern hosts second COVID testing site

Eastern held its second outdoor COVID-19 testing site Tuesday, Nov. 17.

The testing site ran from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and offered students, staff and community members a drive through and walk in option.

Ruth Nicholson, a graduate student and the nutrition promotion coordinator, said the clinic had a few changes made in order to help navigate everyone coming to get tested.

"It's a little different than last time we did it because we had



Maddie Havens, a senior majoring in business marketing, Griffin Lilly, a freshman majoring business marketing, and Christine Eldrenkamp, a freshman political science major, wait in line to get tested for COVID at Eastern's flu shot and COVID testing site in parking lot W. The testing site hours were from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and had two separate COVID testing sites: one where students and staff could walk up and one a drive-through option.

separate [lines] for the community and for the students and faculty," Nicholson said, "but now it's all just one walk up and all one drive through."

Nicholson said the Health Education Resource Center staff has been trying to organize the event in the safest way they can and how to place the walk-in clinic's lines.

"The HERC staff have been helping Emma [Noble] coordinate things, get things figured out, what's the best way to safely to organize it:

where do we put people, where do we put lines," Nicholson said. "We went through and knocked on the doors of the people who live on fourth street just so they know we're coming through."

Many students said they decided to come to the clinic as a precaution before the upcoming holiday break.

Delaney Kiernan, sophomore majoring in special education and elementary education, said she's getting tested because her family told her to get tested.

"My family told me to get tested, but like I've already had COVID, so I'm doing it because they want me to," Kiernan said. "It's just precautionary."

Catrina Stanley, an office manager in the School of Business, said she's glad Eastern held another testing clinic before break. She added that she and her husband have gotten tested, so they'll be able to at ease during the beak.

"I think it's a good idea for the kids going home, to make their families at home feel more at ease," Stanley said. "My husband and I actually both work at EIU, and so we're taking advantage so we have a little peace of mind, especially the more faculty and staff cases that we have heard of on campus."

Toby Austin, a senior majoring in family service and consumer sciences, said she's getting a COVID test to protect her family and her grandkids.



Mara Kades, a freshman majoring in economics, receives a flu shot from one of the health care workers at Eastern's flu shot and COVID testing site at parking lot W on Oct. 14. Kades said that she wasn't too sure if she should get a shot at first because in Germany only the elderly and those who were high risk got the flu shot. She added that her parents and a family member, who worked in the medical field, had recommended getting one, so she decided to get one.

"Me as a grandmother, I have to be extra careful, so that's why this is my second time," Austin said, "The first time was good, hope and pray, fingers crossed and everything, that I'm good this time so I can be comfortable knowing that I'm not going to continue to spread this virus."

Many students thought that it was a good idea to have a testing clinic before break.

Austin said that she thinks it was timed perfectly because students would want to get tested to prevent further spread

of the virus.

"You want to go home, you want to be safe, you want to make sure your family is safe," Austin said, "especially if you live on campus because you're interacting with different people so you don't want to go home and continue to spread this."

Jahleel Perrin, majoring in sports management, said he thought it was important to get tested before break, but not as important as it would be after. "I feel like it's a smart idea," Perrin said, "but we should definitely have this when we come back from Thanksgiving break as well. [...] We get to visit home and things like that and we're coming in contact with other people, I feel like on campus we're a lot safer here."

Story, photos, and page design by Elizabeth Wood



Haiven Whitley, a health co-coordinator at Eastern, hands out a clip board to Troy Clark, a journalism major, and explains what to fill out on the COVID testing sheets and that there was an option to self-swab. Whitley said she thinks Health Services decided to have two testing sites because they didn't know what the weather would be like and to give the community, students and staff accessibility to the testing sites.

Walsworth



Vaccine rollout:

Students discuss what it was like to get the vaccine

As the pandemic marched on from the fall semester into the spring, we all held onto the fragile hope that a vaccine would come out sooner than its predicted summer release. We all watched and read the updates as vaccines were tested on volunteers, looking to see the research and what side effects they might have. As we waited with bated breath, a few vaccines were halted due to unprecedented side effects and we were left watching as they had to revise the vaccine.

Then, as all seemed lost, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was approved in the US and began being distributed to health care workers and those who were immune-compromised or high-risk in late December. Slowly, other vaccines were approved and the Moderns and the Johnson & Johnson vaccines joined the Pfizer-BioNTech by providing more access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Eventually, a massive effort to get people vaccinated was launched and companies pushed to make and deliver as many vaccines as possible; however, some were hesitant to try the vaccine and for a while some doses went bad and were thrown away. Despite the initial hesitancy, many still came forward to get the vaccine, hoping to return to something similar to a “normal” day.

In March and April, those who were 16 and up in Illinois were approved to be vaccinated and pharmacies like Walgreens, Walmart, CVS, and hospitals began online sign-ups to get whichever vaccine was in stock. On April 9 and 10, the National Guard came to Sarah Bush Lincoln to administer free Johnson & Johnson, single dosage vaccines to students, faculty, and those who lived or worked in Coles County. On those days, buses made round trips from Eastern to the hospital to provide students who didn’t have a vehicle a way to get vaccinated, if they chose to do so.

Lucas Grindley, freshman, journalism major

On March 25, I went to get my first dose of the Moderna version of the COVID-19 vaccine. I finally qualified because I work at the EIU Housing and Dining Office, and the college faculty could get the vaccine. I had to call ahead a few days in advance to register, as only certain people qualified for the limited amount of vaccines. Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital in Mattoon hosted the vaccine distribution, but the vaccines were not in the main building. Instead, there was a side building that actually had the vaccines.

When I arrived, there was a long line of people who had registered, and I expected a long wait. To my surprise, the line moved very quickly. All I had to do was verify who I was, and I was allowed to enter the main room. In the main room, I was assigned a number and was given paperwork. The paperwork was a precautionary measure; they wanted to know if I had COVID in the past or any severe reactions to any previous vaccines.

After I turned in my paperwork, my number was called, and I was directed to one of multiple vaccine stations. I didn’t even feel the shot. I was monitored for 15 minutes after getting the shot to see if I would have any reactions. I did not, so they set up a date for me to get my second dose, and I was on my way back to campus.

I was very impressed with how quickly it took to get vaccinated. I don’t think I was even in there for an hour.

Quarantined on campus:

A student's experience with COVID-19

Senior year of college has to be one of the most trying times in a person's life: trying to figure out what they want to do after they graduate and trying to pass classes, all while trying to spend as much time with friends as possible.

But in a pandemic? Forget about it. Impossible. Especially when you catch the illness that caused the world to shut down.

On Sunday, Oct. 25, 2021, my best friend Corryn called me and told me that she was being forced to quarantine after being contacted by the Health Department. Somebody in her building caught COVID-19 when they went home the previous weekend, so everybody that lived there had to isolate and get tested. She went to Health Services and got tested.

My first instinct was to get up and tell my roommate, Claire. As soon as I told her, we both started to freak out a little bit. Corryn was over at our apartment that whole weekend and came into direct contact with both of us. She had her head in my lap for at least two hours the day before and was play-fighting with Claire for a good portion of the night. We knew that if Corryn had it, we were going to get it.

Corryn's positive COVID test didn't come until the next day.

Coincidentally, that is when Claire started showing symptoms. At first it was a little snuffle, a bit of a cough, and a very tiny sore throat, so she got tested as soon as she could. I was in my 3 p.m. class on Zoom when she knocked on my door. Clair told me she tested positive, and somebody from the Health Department would probably call me soon.

About 10 minutes later, somebody called me to inform me that my roommate had tested positive for COVID-19.

When I asked if I should get tested or isolate in my apartment, they told me no. So, I went to work like normal, and took grocery requests. Meanwhile, Claire was forced to move into University Apartments to separate us so I don't get sick. After bringing her groceries and flip-flops for the shower, I dropped off some groceries to Corryn, and I went back home and watched a show on Netflix.

The next day, I woke up with a tiny sore throat, a slight cough, and a little trouble breathing. I decided to go to Sarah Bush to get tested instead of Health Services, mainly because I didn't want to pay the \$40 fee. I'm a college student, I'm permanently broke, and Sarah Bush was offering free testing.

I called off work, and logged on to yet another Zoom class, when I got the call. I was positive.

Luckily, my roommate was immediately allowed back in the apartment now that we both tested positive, so I didn't have to suffer through this alone.

We continued with online lectures, increasingly worse symptoms, endless phone calls, and plenty of naps. We only left the apartment to take out our garbage (wearing masks, gloves, and using antibacterial wipes everywhere, of course).

On Nov. 1, it was Claire's 22nd birthday.

That morning, I woke up to somebody knocking on our door. It was Mark Hudson, the director of Housing and Dining. He gave her a birthday cake, a card, candles, a little lighter and a small gift.

Claire was lucky enough to have two birthday cakes for her 22nd birthday. I made her a Heath caramel cake the day before. We called Corryn, and another friend or two, and sang happy birthday to Claire over FaceTime. While it wasn't how any of us wanted to spend Claire's birthday, I thought it was pretty nice.

We were all let out of quarantine two days apart from each other.

On my release day, we spent time together, just like we had when we all got sick, and talked about how absolutely terrible getting COVID-19 was.

Story by Skylar Redmond; Photo and page design by Elizabeth Wood

12, 445

585

84

Walsworth



Low cost helps boost enrollment

Eastern’s student enrollment has increased by 10.5% with 8,628 students enrolled fall 2020, despite changes in recruiting students due to the COVID-19.

Eastern provided a student survey during the pandemic to students, asking why they decided to enroll at Eastern.

According to the survey, many students enrolled at Eastern this fall because of the school giving students single rooms with no additional cost, as well as still providing in person classes and activities on a smaller scale.

The main selling point of the Eastern’s pitch to students is an affordable tuition at \$22,480.32 for Illinois students, border state students, and distinguished out-of-state students. Non-border state students estimated cost is \$24,790.62 for 2021-2022 school year. Students are supported with financial aid

and over 800 scholarships they can apply for.

With the 14-to-1 student faculty ratio students can receive more feedback, students are noticed by professors and students can have one-on-one interactions with their professors.

Freshman can get started with their major as soon as they arrive on campus.

“If a student majors in Broadcast-ing, he or she can easily go work at WEIU News Watch if they decide to do so,” said Kelly Miller, admis-sions director.

For the class of 2025 coming into Eastern next year, the university has changed the ACT/SAT test require-ment as optional for the next school year. This is another way of recruit-ment for the university to bring in more freshman that couldn’t take their test due to COVID-19 this past spring.

Past years at Eastern, students got the chance to attend an open house, invited to tailgating at home football games and they also had counselors going to college fairs to recruit students to come Eastern.

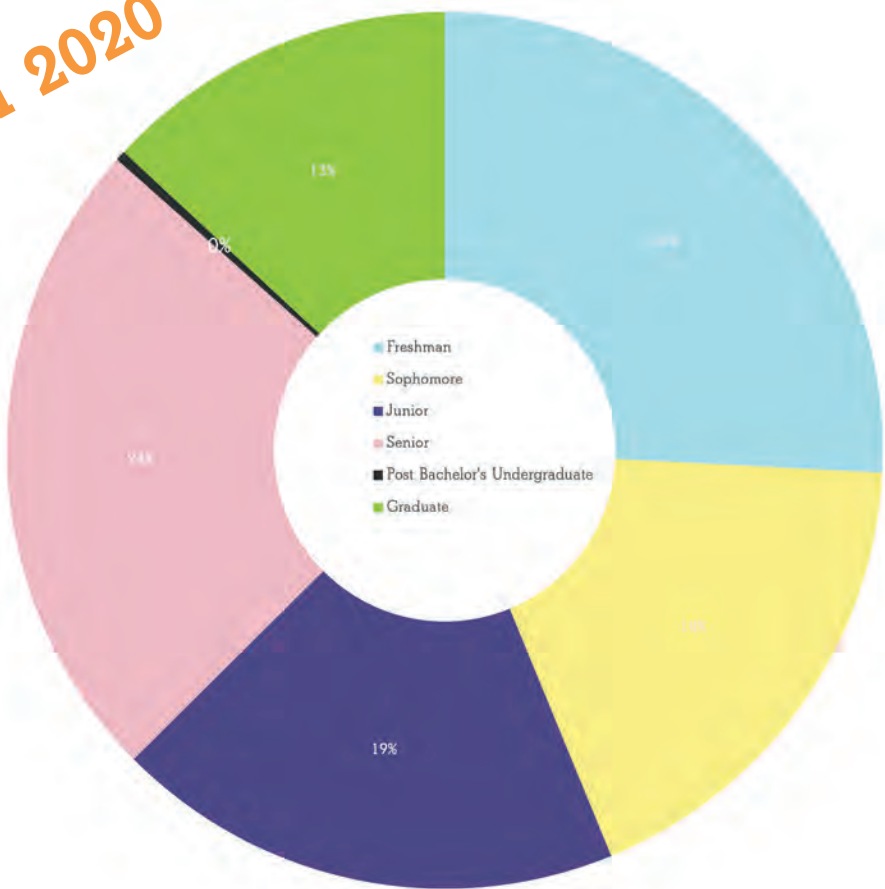
The admissions office has pro-vided many options for students to know what Eastern has to offer. They provided virtual tours, visual presentations and student panels.

Eastern has allowed students and family to come on weekends for self-guided campus tours with a map of the locations around East-ern.

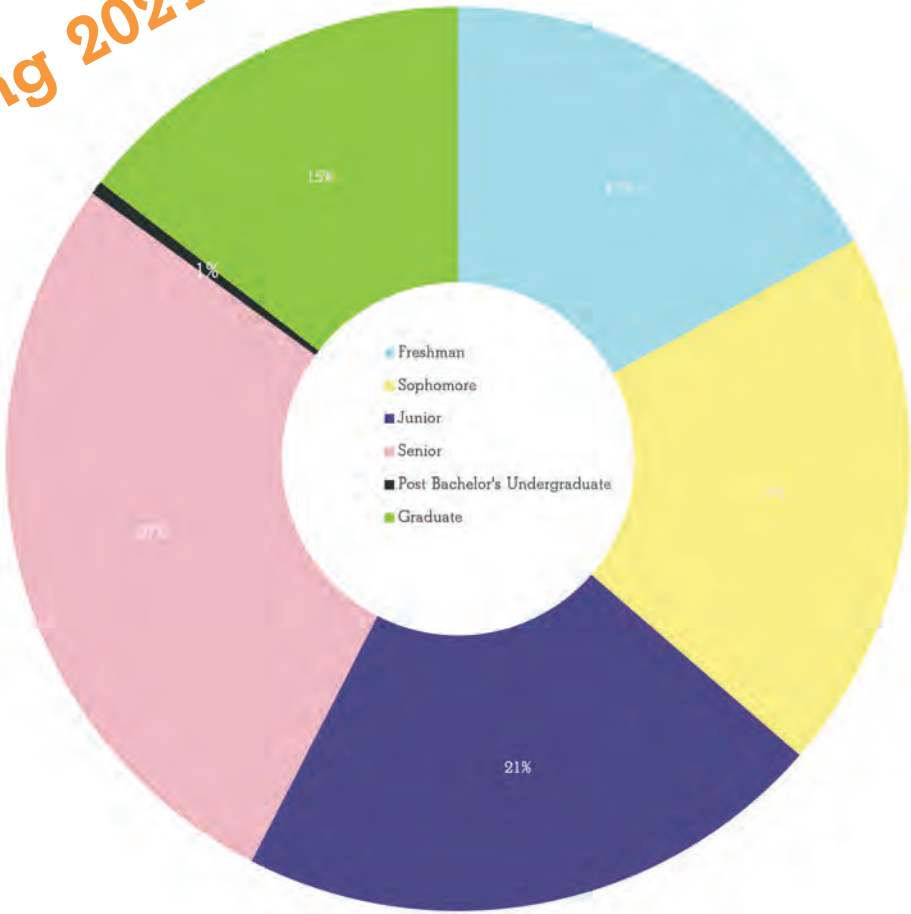
“Our hope and plan is to be back to a more normal situation by Fall 2021,” said Miller.

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Troy Clark

Fall 2020



Spring 2021



Walsworth



MIC: MUTED

CAMERA: OFF

PHONE: ON

What I really do in zoom class....

"If the video is required to be on, I'm normally paying attention, but sometimes I'll do like maybe some knitting while it's going on. If the video has to be off or can be off, normally I'm on my phone."

-Honor Baker, a music education major

"We just go over notes. I mean I don't find it as interesting as an in-person class, but I usually keep focused."

- Alex Rojas, a senior athletic training major

"I don't normally turn on my video because of my face, but I mean I just sit in my apartment, and I pay attention. Personally, I'm pretty good about responding because I feel bad when it's silent because no one else does."

-Estelle Keigher, a junior environmental biology major

"I kind of fall asleep to them a lot, especially when I have them in the morning. That sounds so bad. I'm not such a bad student, but one of my professor's voices just puts me to sleep. It's a knockout, but I pay attention to them most of the time."

-Delaney Kiernai, a sophomore special education and elementary education major

"There were times where I actually was listening to the lesson and I was on my phone, drinking my tea or coffee."

-Denice Haley, a sophomore biological sciences major

Making a difference as an RA

Being a Resident Assistant is a tough job but trying to be one in the middle of a pandemic is even harder. Between balancing classwork and still trying to meet the needs of your residents, COVID-19 protocols adds another set of rules to balance.

With strict protocol and not being able to meet face-to-face, one RA is trying to make the most of it.

Darriona Thurman, an RA of Taylor Hall, has tried to make her residents feel at ease during this hard time.

"Being an RA during the COVID-19 pandemic is a very challenging and unique experience," Thurman said. "However, I have made it fun by hosting social events, COVID-friendly, and creating relationships with my residents. I have found ways to overcome the idea of social distancing and not being around my residents face-to-face."

Thurman sees this as just a roadblock that can be easily overcome; It's a new norm that students will

have to work around. She doesn't want the pandemic to damage and ruin the experience for her residents living on campus.

RA's have a responsibility to try to get residents together and bond but that is more difficult in these times.

"The most difficult part of my job during the semester is definitely not being able to personally get every event done easily because of the restrictions," Thurman said, "I've wanted to have dinner with my residents, chill with them in person, have them come to my room, and I can't."

With such strict rules for residents and a lot of unwillingness to wear masks, it has forced a lot of school violation codes to be written up.

"The mask policy and having no more than one guest (per resident) has been something that I, and my co-workers, find ourselves repeating to too many students," Thurman said, "who we'd have to eventually document for breaking the university's policy."

With these violations, students can put themselves in a position to get the virus or put other students in harm's way.

Even though this pandemic has made things hard for RAs, Thurman said she would do it again.

"Many students need someone who will be there for them mentally and physically," Thurman said. "And because of the feedback I got on how much help I was to my residents, I would love to do the same again over and over. Although this experience is difficult, I do plan to conquer it again."

The challenge of making a change in people's lives in time likes this, fuels the fire inside her to make a difference.

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Cole Walker; Photo by: Ashanti Thomas



Alana McNeely, a sophomore human services major and resident assistant for fifth floor of Andrews Hall, walks around the floor for her rounds on a Monday night. McNeely said her favorite part about being an RA is being able to establish relationships. "I wanted to be an RA because I like to be that welcoming face that everyone would feel comfortable in coming to talk to and give friendly advice to."

Bottom Row – Eboard: Drew Randall (VPAF), Jaclyn Thomas (President), Ben Drake (NCC/ICC)

21-06-28 22:35:09 y107434_0022_c.p1.pdf Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Back when Eastern was first founded, the university had two different residence hall associations: the Women's Residence Hall Association (WRHA) and Men's Residence Hall Association (MRHA).

That decision was made due to the fact the university had separate women and men's residence halls, but when the university started having co-ed residence halls, the two combined to form what is known as the Residence Hall Association (RHA).

The association has grown a lot since it was first formed, working hard to provide a voice for Eastern's on-campus students.

Jaclyn Thomas, a junior interpersonal communication student, is Residence Hall Association's president. She said that every residence hall, including Greek Court, gets three representatives who attend the association's weekly meetings. The meetings happen every Thursday at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

Along with three representatives from each residence hall, the RHA executive board and four advisers attend these meetings. If one of the representatives is unable to attend a meeting, a proxy, someone else from their residence hall's council, will attend for them.

The meetings are open to the public, so sometimes associate resident directors and guest speakers will attend them.

"Recently this year we've had people come from the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office, Panther Dining, and the EIU Naming Forum," Thomas said.

During these meetings, all attendees can share information and knowledge with one another.

"[The representatives] share information about what's going on in their halls, and get information from us and other housing staff to bring back to their halls," Thomas said. "We just share information about what's going on, keep everyone updated and things like that."

The association also uses these meetings to vote on different issues.

"There is the big discussion of renaming Douglas Hall right now, so [the EIU Naming Forum] wanted RHA feedback," Thomas said. "They came and talked with us at a meeting, and we voted on whether or not we supported that."

The association is known for planning two

major events every fall and spring, starting with Neighborhood Week in the fall semester.

Previously called ROC Fest, Neighborhood Week allows the residence halls to compete against one another in fun activities and events. These events help get students excited to live on campus.

This school year, the Neighborhood Week events included a scavenger hunt, a relay race, and many other fun activities, with prizes for the winners of these events.

In the spring semester, RHA hosts Social Justice and Diversity Week.

Social Justice and Diversity Week is a week of events that brings students together to help them understand the diverse and unique world we live in. The week focuses on programming and activities that educate the community and spread awareness on important issues.

"One of the [activities] was a grab-and-go project," Thomas said. "You could grab beads and strings to make a keychain about your identity. We also did a 'Smashing Hate' program where you wrote things that you were upset by, stereotypes, stigmas you wanted to break, on a tile, and then you got to smash it on the ground."

RHA also does window-painting competitions between the residence halls. Window-painting is a big part of living in the residence halls, and like other events the association hosts, its purpose is to get students excited to live on campus.

Despite all the hard work the association has put in to make sure they can keep providing their services and hosting programs for the Eastern community, Covid affected RHA as it has with many organizations on-campus.

With many of the association's events and meetings happening online, it was tough getting students involved at first.

"A lot of people weren't comfortable or didn't want to be on a Zoom call when they've been in Zoom classes all day, but I do think it actually has gained us some people as well who may not have wanted to come to an in-person thing," Thomas said. "People who might have been very shy and afraid have been able to get involved with online meetings and feel more comfortable in their own space."

Something else that has changed for the association since Covid first began spreading is that the organization is unable to attend in-person conferences like they used to.

Students from the association used to attend huge conferences where they had the opportunity to meet residence hall associations from other universities in the area. They were able to attend these conferences because of their affiliations with residence hall associations across the United States.

Benjamin Drake, a sophomore history education student, is the Illinois and national communications coordinator for the association.

"We are affiliated on the state level with IRHA, which is the Illinois Residence Hall Association," Drake said. "Regionally, which is Michigan, Ontario, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana, with Great Lakes Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls. Then nationally with the National Association of College and University Residence Halls."

Drake said that these conferences provide great opportunities for the students in RHA.

"It's a great opportunity for us because it gives us a voice within the region and the nation, and it allows us to provide students with connections with other institutions," Drake said.

This school year, the association was supposed to attend a conference hosted at Michigan Technological University, but this year it was hosted virtually.

"It's unfortunate because it's nice to go to those in-person conferences and connect with those people from other institutions personally, but from the feedback we got from the delegates that went, they still had a good time and they still enjoyed their experience," Drake said. "We are really glad about that."

RHA does not have any major plans for the upcoming semester, but the association did add a new position to the executive board. The new executive board member will run the media and marketing for the association.

Apart from that, the association simply hopes that things will change for the better in the upcoming semester.

"Hopefully we can go back in person because all of our meetings have been over Zoom," Drake said.



Safe cleaning protocols at Eastern Illinois University continue to be a top priority for the administration. “Certain spaces such as dining facilities, kitchens and bathrooms require a higher degree of cleaning to ensure the spaces are sanitary for use and this heightened level of cleaning also falls within the normal duties of our BSWs,” said Sean Reeder, the vice president for Business Affairs.

These fall under usual general cleaning guidelines. The difference comes, Reeder says, with disinfection. Disinfection is not included under general guidelines, so with COVID-19 comes more rigorous disinfecting of surfaces.

“General cleaning is not considered disinfection,” Reeder said, “and because of the virality of the COVID-19 virus, we are taking added steps to disinfect surfaces and spaces in addition to general cleaning.”

To keep up with the severity of the virus, Reeder commented on increased



Sean Reeder, vice president for Business Affairs.

measures like hiring additional building service workers to keep up with demands of COVID-19, particularly in “high touch areas.”

Different services are performed by different workers across different areas of EIU: Facilities & Services, Housing & Dining, and the Union. Housing & Dining, and the Union fall under Anne Flaherty, vice president for Student Affairs

Among the services that the BSWs already perform, cleaning materials have also been distributed to different departments to ensure upkeep in-between deep cleans done by the BSWs.

“In addition, we have distributed additional disinfection/cleaning materials to units/departments/offices so that they can keep high touch surfaces (door handles, copy machines, keyboards, etc. etc.) wiped down within their own spaces,” Reeder said.



There have been staff members seen not following proper mask guidelines, but Reeder said that they are put to a higher standard and are required to follow the same rules as students.

“Mask wearing is mandatory for employees as well as students at EIU,” Reeder said, “and we have a reporting mechanism for both when not wearing masks.”

If you see any faculty members not following guidelines, Reeder encourages you to report them at <https://www.eiu.edu/complaints/login.php>.

Reeder also displays a level of humility when it comes to shortcomings or ways that EIU can improve the quality of safety at EIU.

“Our testing protocols this fall have been helpful in identifying positive cases and mitigating the further spread of the virus,” Reed said. “We believe more frequent testing will further improve our control of future spread.”

EIU is partnering with the SHIELD program at the University of Illinois to begin providing their saliva based testing to students and employees for the spring semester. This will be done on a weekly basis to help increase the opportunities for faculty and students to get tested and obtain up to date results of infection rates.



Early in the morning, Caleb West, a building service worker, sanitizes Booth Library. Despite Booth’s size, West said it’s one building that can be sanitized quickly—especially since there are signs on the tables at Booth marking them used or not used. If a table doesn’t have a sign, West usually sprays them anyway to be safe.

Story by Tanner DeVore;
Photos and page design
by Elizabeth Wood

Walsworth

Late Night Cleaning

Nestled behind O'Brien Stadium, Building Service Workers (BSWs) go into the Building Services building to relax and grab a cup of coffee before the long night. In an area that resembles a store room, there's an area cleared out enough for chairs to be placed in a square around miscellaneous equipment. The BSWs chat among themselves, some meandering back into a small side office to refill their coffee or to grab a soda. Once the clock strikes 10 p.m., a few BSWs leave with a "see you in a half hour," hollered at their retreating backs. Soon those who stayed are preparing their sprayers and loading up their cars. Not a minute too late, the last of the BSW's cars pull out of the large parking lot like a small army on a mission.

Through the night they walk through darkened buildings, emptying trash, mopping, and leaving doors open for their partners, who enter classrooms with sprayers in hand.

They go through classrooms quickly, leaving no surface untouched, and leave the faint smell of chemicals behind.

Occasionally, they will bump into a student staying late in a classroom, but they wish the students a good night and leave the day shift a note to spray the room later: The BSWs have a lot of space to cover before 5:30 a.m. after all.

For the rest of the night, the BSWs moving quickly and silently as we all sleep soundly, doing their part to fight COVID-19.

An associate of the disinfectant crew, Korey Zike, talked about how he and his team disinfects the buildings, especially during the pandemic, how long it takes them to clean, and how COVID has affected the staff while on the job.

Early Wednesday morning, Caleb West, a building service worker, walks through the top floor of Booth Library to check and sanitize the study tables. West said he started the day Eastern shut down for the Corona virus during the 2020 spring semester. He added that he didn't feel overwhelmed, but he did feel a little out of his element, since it took time to get used to the new regulations.

Q: How many years have you worked here?

A: Well the disinfectant crew has only been here since COVID, but I have been working out here at Eastern for 16 years. I was a BSW sub Forman working at the MLK Union and each year we bid on the building that we wanted to work at.

Q: What is your typical schedule throughout the week?

A: Well, we come in at 10 p.m. and we get off at 5:30 in the morning. We have groups of two people, who go around and disinfect different buildings on campus, and clean classrooms and stuff too.

Q: What are some disinfect materials you guys use?

A: So, they make their own disinfectant liquid in the still here that we use, and then we have backpack sprayers and foggers that we use. The backpack sprayers are battery operated and our foggers are plug-ins.

Q: How many buildings do you clean?

A: Me and another guy that I am with do seven buildings and another crew does three buildings.

Q: How many people are with you while cleaning the buildings?

A: Right now we have seven people on the crew, we are one short because one of our guys went to become a university police officer. So, they are supposed to be hiring another one here soon, but right now there are just seven of us and we usually split up in two main groups.

Q: How long does it take for you to clean all the buildings?

A: It takes us pretty much all of our shift to get all of the buildings on the physical side done. All the classrooms, offices, board meeting rooms, entryways, it takes pretty much the whole shift.

Q: What's the hardest part or most difficult about cleaning and disinfecting the buildings?

A: Just the amount of the area that you have to cover in each building and the time frame that you have to disinfect/clean them.

Q: What's it been like overall with COVID being a factor while on the job?

A: I mean, the mask I am not a big fan and can hardly breathe when I have them on, but just wearing our PPE kind of changed things up a little bit.

Q: Have you been short staffed because of COVID-19? If so, how do you go about that as far as getting the job done?

A: Yea there was one point during this where we had several people quarantined, like half of our crew. So, they brought a couple people from dayshift to fill in and then our SPC Crew which does all the waxing and stuff, they also came in and helped us to feel in and get that stuff covered. [...] And the disinfectant takes priority over anything else.



Korey Zike, an associate of the disinfectant crew, discusses what he and his crew do every night from 10 p.m to 5:30 a.m..

Mark Hudson

Whether working to assist Eastern students or at home with his wife and two sons, Mark Hudson brings and unmatched level of compassion and care for those around him.

Hudson, who was born and raised in East Alton, Illinois, has been a member of Eastern's community for most of his life.

He attended Eastern for both his graduate and undergraduate degrees where he was a resident assistant, hall director and member of various student organizations.

"Eastern just felt like a comfortable, good pair of shoes," Hudson said.

During his time at Eastern, Hudson met three advisers, former Eastern President Lou Hencken, Randy Johnson and Mary Smith, who shaped him into the man many people at Eastern know today.

"It's those relationships and that dynamic that really captured my interest and got my attention," Hudson said.

One of his closest relationships was with Hencken, who served in Hudson's current position of director of Housing when Hudson began becoming involved with the Housing and Dining Office.

"I would say that I hold him in reverence because he was the one who reached out to me, that helped me feel comfortable and the way I like to put it is I felt less invisible because of my relationship with him," Hudson said.

He said he learned a lot from Hencken that he uses in his career.

"I have always appreciated that about him, he's the one who introduced me to the idea that you've got to connect with people more than whatever the business way is, you want to show interest in them in the bigger picture and because of that relationship you can build off of that," Hudson said. "You can both benefit off that."

"I think he was a great role model, and I was blessed and am blessed to have him in my life and still consider him a colleague, a friend and mentor."

Now that Hudson fills one of Hencken's positions, he says he wants to give back to Eastern what he received from it.

Hencken said that when he became the university's president and the position of director of Housing and Dining opened, he recalled a story about Hudson that led him to choosing Hudson for the job:

"I have this phrase that I've used a lot through-

out my career and especially as I was teaching near the end and that's 'you're not necessarily remembered the way that you entered but the way that you leave.' So, Hudson had already accepted a position at the University of North Dakota and worked in housing and he was going to leave here on June 15th because that was the end of his contract and we had a major conference, it was like 4,000 people for a summer conference and Hudson worked un until midnight his last night here before he hopped in his car the next morning to drive to Grand Forks, North Dakota, he was working that hard.

"And that's something I've always remembered about his work ethic, what a hard worker he was and how conscious and dedicated he was because he was not going to leave the university high and dry," Hencken said.



Hencken said while he enjoys joking with Hudson, he also notices that Hudson has made a big impact on Eastern.

"I always kid with Hudson and tell him he's the second-best housing director we ever had... but, and I mean this, I think he's probably the best housing director the university has ever had," Hencken said.

Donna Hudson, Hudson's wife, said she's always thought of Hencken and her husband's friendship as something special.

"I think they have a great deal of mutual respect and affection for one another," she said. "I know Hudson really sees Lou as a mentor and many of things Hudson admires about Lou are qualities, I think that he's worked to try to emulate within himself and I think he feels very fortunate that he's had some really great mentors

and I really do think those mentors think very highly of Hudson and think of him as a friend, too. I think he's been very lucky in that way."

Outside of work, Donna Hudson says Mark Hudson's loyalty and dedication doesn't stop when he leaves campus.

"Hudson is really a loyal person, especially in regards to EIU," she said. "He bleeds blue, and I think he's just as loyal when it comes to being a dad. He is committed to being supportive to the boys and I think both of us have enjoyed our relationship with our children as adults.

"We loved when the boys were younger and growing up and the reward for all those years of changing diapers and middle of the night feedings is that you really get to have a friendship with your children as they grow older and I would say Hudson is very solidly in that camp," she said. "He is the first one to offer support in terms of finances or whatever and just has been so unconditionally supportive to all of the boys all the way through."

She said his personality of being a strong advocate for the LGBT community, equity and equality and for the underrepresented in general is something she is proud to see in him whether he is at home or work.

"I always think that the person that you see and know is the same person that I see here at home," she said. "He is a positive, even-tempered, look on the bright side kind of guy all the way around."

Donna Hudson said her husband's personality may not be how it appears on the outside in all situations, though.

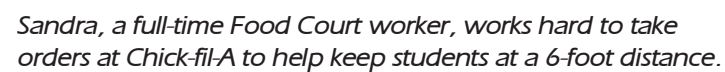
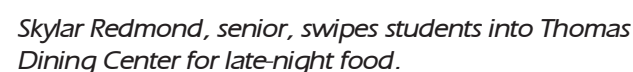
"Most people would probably not describe him as an introvert, but he would describe himself that way," she said. "And I think he tries a little harder because he's not always super comfortable in settings with lots of people, he worries about not remembering people's names, he wants to be there for other people all the time and sometimes I think he worries about his ability to relate and make people feel special because that's important to him to make people feel special and to make people feel heard."

Despite his truly introverted personality, Hudson makes it a point to be there for people, whether that means a friendly hello while passing students on campus, compassion by sending a birthday girl a cake while she is in quarantine or spending hours ensuring those in his life are happy and healthy.

And it does not go unnoticed.

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Corryn Brock; Photo by: Ashanti Thomas





Food Service Employees Adjust to COVID

Eastern’s dining halls have made operational changes and preventative policies to tackle COVID-19, which have brought new challenges and positive changes to student workers’ schedules.

Vanessa Gower, student manager at Thomas Hall Dining, said student workers have to wear masks, change gloves often, wash their hands often, disinfect counters and handles and anything getting touched, self-screen for COVID-19 before coming to work and social distance.

Additionally, all customers have to wear face masks and follow social distancing guidelines.

Gower said that before COVID-19, the rushes were difficult to manage at Thomas Dining. After COVID-19, the student customers were difficult.

From her experience working in fall 2020, students were generally apathetic about following mask and social distancing policies when dining at Thomas Hall, Gower said.

Each day during normal shifts, Gower said she had to remind students at least 20 to 30 times to wear their masks properly over their noses.

“I think throughout the whole entire semester, I’ve said it at least 200 times, (maybe) 300,” she said.

Once, after the Burger Night rush at Thomas Dining Hall subdued, Gower said she finished checking in with her coworkers and noticed a student who wasn’t wearing her mask properly.

After asking the student to pull her mask up over her nose, Gower returned soon after to find the same problem. Gower said she made the same request only to be insulted afterward.

“I was called a ‘Karen’ for telling someone to pull their mask over their nose,” Gower said. “It’s just frustrating.”

Skylar Redmond, student worker at Thomas Hall Dining, said she has to remind students to follow COVID-19 policies so frequently, her throat is sore by the end of the night.

Gower said unless student workers are present to enforce the policy, students are also uninterested in social distancing.

Redmond said that despite the fact that stickers placed six feet apart on the floor exist as foolproof social distancing guides, students still fail to follow them.

“I actually have to yell at people now – and I don’t like that – to stand 6 feet apart and follow the stickers on the floor,” Redmond said.

She said students also cross the barrier between the Thomas and Andrews sides of the dining hall, which isn’t allowed, either.

Gower said there could be multiple explanations for why students generally do not follow the policies at Thomas Dining.

“I feel like some people don’t think that the virus is a threat or a big enough threat, like, ‘It’s not going to make me sick,’ or ‘I’ve already had it and I’ve survived; it’s not going to kill me,’ or they just don’t feel like social distancing will help, they don’t want to, they want to stand by their friends. There’s so many possible factors of why they don’t want to,” Gower said.

While frequently reminding students to follow COVID-19 policies can be frustrating, Redmond said Thomas Dining is considerably less busy now.

Many students decided not to return to campus after the spring of 2020, when the in-person semester suddenly became remote due to the pandemic, which is likely one of the main reasons for the decline in customers.

“For example, (during) Tuesday dinner for tacos and burritos and stuff, we usually have 200 to 300 people come in just on one side, and this past Tuesday, we had, I think, 135, which is a lot less than we usually do,” Redmond said.

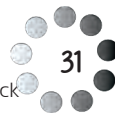
Elysia Strueber, student manager at Stevenson Dining Hall, said it is considerably less busy since the pandemic struck, making her job much easier.

Student workers in Stevenson Hall have still had to make operational changes, just as all dining halls have, but the decreased number of student customers and the addition of items pre-packaged to go makes for a more relaxed schedule, she said.

“I remember last year, I would be trying to clock in and go through this crowd and it would just be kind of a disaster – just so many people would be there,” Strueber said. “And it’s hard to maneuver, and if you’re stocking stuff and there’s just so many people in your way, you don’t know what to do. It’s less crowded, which is better.”

Even though other student workers in different dining halls have had poor experiences with students uninterested in following new policies, Strueber said she has not had those problems.

She said generally, students follow the policies in Stevenson Dining Hall, and if anyone has their mask below their nose, it only takes one reminder for them to wear them properly.



Catering to the New Normal

EIU catering services provide meals for students who quarantined while on campus.

Since the beginning of the year, everything has been different. With social distancing, mask policies, and classes getting turned upside down, the most notable is dining on campus.

While dining has been uprooted, one dining area has been the root of helping those who have been quarantined on campus: catering.

Before COVID, catering was used for dining for events on campus including orientation for new and transfer students. Now, catering serves the students who unfortunate to be exposed or have the coronavirus.

When in quarantine, students must leave their dorm room and go to one of Eastern's quarantine areas in Greek Court or University Apartments for 14 days.

During these 14 days, once a day, catering drops off a bag filled with two meals: lunch and dinner. Students can also disclose food allergies and preferences, like gluten, dairy-free, vegan, and vegetarian, so they can eat foods that fit their accommodations.

Students also have the option to have snacks delivered with their meals, which can include fruit bars, chips, soda, and/or popcorn.

With all of these choices, new and old workers, all from different dinning backgrounds, have to make, pack, and deliver meals.

Due to COVID-19, scheduling student workers, and where they work, has changed.

EIU senior Theresa Coleman said she likes the flexible scheduling this semester.

"Last year it was hard to work, for me at least, because a lot of events were held when I was in class or had other obligations. There are more hours and its busier than last year," Coleman said.

"I love that I can pick my schedule and its flexible. I will probably be working in catering until I graduate."

Those working in catering are also moving between dining centers. Coleman said she likes the variety, but it's hectic to move between dining centers.

"I enjoy the variety and working with/meeting new people," Coleman said. "I hate doing the same thing all day every day so this is nice for me. I don't like the hectic but I like that I have more options for hours, and yet it's still when I can work and I'm not stressed about homework."

Then there are happy moments, Coleman added that she likes helping people.

"I feel glad that I am helping someone in need," Coleman said, "yet feel bad that they are sick and are stuck at home."

Brian Smith, the director of Catering, said that the biggest difference from last year is the amount of time they are given to adjust to changes in orders.

"It's very different; we've had to pivot from making food for buffet-style service to packaging individual meals. In Catering, we are used to dealing with last-minute changes but those are usually a couple of days in advance," Smith said. "These last-minute changes are happening by the hour. But when another resident gets put into quarantine, we're ready to deliver them a meal."

Smith added that he thinks that despite the student's feelings of nervousness, there has been a sense of accomplishment.

"I think [there's] a sense of nervousness and anxiousness from going into buildings that are housing residents that have been affected, but we ensure that we take the proper precautions by wearing the necessary PPE (personal protective equipment)," Smith said. "But I think there's also a sense of accomplishment because we're providing a service and comfort to residents that are stuck in an unreasonable situation."

Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Story and Photos by Sydney M. Dogminguez



A catering worker prepares a dish for the day's meals.



Top: If a student is allergic to something, catering will place a label on the bag

Left: A student worker knocks on a door to let the quarantined student know their food has been delivered.

What's for Dinner



Panther Shuttle Bus Adapts to COVID-19

The Panther Shuttle, some students' only means of transportation, has implemented big changes to coincide with COVID-19 guidelines.

Student passengers must social distance at all times (which means there are lots of empty seats), everyone must wear masks and drivers need to sanitize the bus after every shift.

Additionally, shuttles must adhere to a five-passenger limit at all times, even if it means turning students down at stops. Shuttle bus driver Dan Icenogle, who has driven students around Eastern's campus and Charleston for 12 years, said this change is the hardest on him and the students by far.

Icenogle said he has had to deny students from riding the bus on several occasions because of the five-passenger limit. It happens more frequently during evenings, which is when the shuttle is the busiest.

"It is a problem, and it's going to be a lot worse once it gets cold too," Icenogle said.

After 3 p.m., one shuttle drives during the evening, meaning students only have one option if they need to take the Panther Shuttle at night.

Shuttle bus driver Randy White said one student he has talked with frequently during bus rides shared that he has been late for one class so many times from getting turned down because of the five-passenger limit that he had to drop it. Unfortunately, the loss in credit hours meant he was no longer eligible for a scholarship.

"It's frustrating for the students, but we have to just go with the flow," White said.

Something White and Icenogle said they have always enjoyed about being Panther



Shuttle bus driver Randy White works the morning shifts during the fall 2020 semester. He said fewer students commute on and off campus since the pandemic began.

Shuttle drivers is talking with students and hearing about their experiences at Eastern.

The masks can muffle students' voices, making hearing them difficult, but the drivers said they both try to socialize when they can.

White said a lot of students returned home and away from campus during the lockdowns, and he can see how they may want to remain at home if their classes are still online only.

And White said he reflects on his own college experience and how college students today, especially freshmen, must be feeling.

He said he feels bad that students just starting their college careers are doing so during such unpredictable times when they would normally be having fun, making friends and living life to the fullest.

Not as many students are taking the shuttle this year. Icenogle said pre-COVID during the day shift, he would get 30 or more passengers. This year, he typically gets half of that.

White said he usually gives 15 to 20 students a ride during the day—a huge shift from pre-COVID-19 days.

"Last year, we could have all that in one load," he said.

Both Icenogle and White said they have been impressed with students' following the COVID-19 guidelines on the shuttle.

White said there have been a couple times students forgot to bring masks. That's why the free masks are there.



Story, photo and design by Logan Raschke



Tattiana Stringer, a senior majoring in early childhood education, works at Thomas Dining Hall on the second Wellness Day, Feb. 24, serving up wings for lunch to make a little extra money. Stringer said she spent her Wellness Day working at Thomas Dining for lunch, then headed back to her room to work on homework and study for her upcoming midterms. Stringer added she was thankful that she got to sleep in and was able to make time to relax.

WHAT'S UP WITH WELLNESS DAYS

On Feb. 2 Eastern kicked off the semester's first "wellness day," a day where classes were canceled and provide students an opportunity to relax. The wellness days are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to provide a break for students, while also discouraging students from traveling home for the potentially long weekends, had the days been placed on Monday or Friday. Wellness Days replaced Spring Break.

Ever since the announcement via email on Nov. 11, buried at the end of an email detailing that Eastern would be going online after Thanksgiving break, students have voiced their opinions across campus: while some like the idea, others as if the wellness days isn't a full break, and a few...well they didn't even know about them until the day before.

"[I feel] nothing, it's just one day, maybe four, and I didn't know until today," said, Kazutl Shiontani, a sophomore majoring in business management.

Besides a few students not knowing when the wellness days were, a few expressed that wellness days does not give students the same mental break as spring break does.

Frida Chavez, a sophomore majoring in biology, said that she thought having spring break would have been a better option for full time students.

"Well, I think that, you know, as full-time students we need a break," Chavez said, "that's why I think spring break would have been better."

Emma Beck, a junior majoring in psychology, said that she feels as if the wellness days don't provide students a true day off.

"I don't think that the wellness days do the same thing as spring break because professors assign the same amount of work during the week, so it's not like we really take the day off," said, Beck. "If we couldn't have spring break, I think I would prefer if we ended the semester early."

Beck added that she understands the university's motivation to keep students on campus to prevent a potential COVID-19 outbreak on campus.

"I understand what they were trying to do by not giving long weekends," said, Beck, "but to be honest, most of the people I know are still going home the same amount of times, so I feel like they should have just given us the long weekends, it would have made things easier."

Beck's statement echoes across campus.

Students debating wellness days over spring break have, at one point, discussed that the motivation behind canceling spring break was made to keep everyone's health in mind, but it still doesn't take away the disappointment of losing the week-long break from classes.

"I wish I could have a spring break," Shiontani said, "but, you know, with COVID there's nothing we could do."

Despite wanting a spring break, Shiontani mentioned nothing would change for him.

"I'm an international student, and I have no place to go home to right now," Shiontani said, "so, you know, even if we had spring break, I'm just staying here or traveling around the area."

Sean Chien, a graduate student majoring in biological sciences, didn't like the idea of replacing spring break with wellness days.

"I don't feel good because we don't have spring break," said, Chien.

Susi Legg, a sophomore majoring in game design, said she likes that the university spread the wellness days throughout the semester.

"I think it's kind of nice actually that they spread it out," Legg said. "Personally, I just like the breaks in between, to be honest."

Whether students hated wellness days or liked them; most have mulled over how they would have replaced spring break.

Chavez mentioned that Tuesday was a weird day to give students off and thought a long weekend would be better.

"I think maybe Friday would have been better for a nice break time," Chavez said, "because Tuesday is just an odd day to put it on."

Besides giving long weekends, other students have suggested skipping the break and wellness days altogether. Chien clapped his hands together and shook his head before saying he wished the University had ended the semester earlier.

"I think, right now, I know that they put a holiday [wellness day] tomorrow or something," Chien said, "but I think they either give us spring break or finish the semester earlier."

As students have discussed their thoughts and ideas of how the university could have replaced spring break, they all have similar plans for the upcoming wellness day:

"[I'll] do homework, go to the gym, study, [it's] just another normal day," Shiotani said.

"To do homework and study," Chavez said.

"[I'll] probably finish more homework, to be honest," Legg said.

"Homework," Beck said.

"It's not Unofficial"

"It's not Unofficial" was the slogan of the weekend as two house parties took place during the time when Charleston typically sees the annual event.

Approximately 75 students took part in the two parties, one on Fourth Street and the other Sixth Street. Many of those there were members of Eastern's Greek Life.

Some members of Interfraternity Council organizations Lambda Chi Alpha, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Nu and Sigma Phi Epsilon could be seen at the two parties that took place.

Reporters saw two individuals with masks.

A message was signed by Anne Flaherty, Vice President for Student Affairs, Noor Ul Haash Khamisani, Student Body President, Jordan Arnold National Pan-Hellenic Council President, Karen Gonski, National Panhellenic Council President and Eric Hunter, Interfraternity Council President and sent to students before the weekend's events:

"With the speculation of off-campus social events and warmer temperatures, we recognize the desire to gather together is strong. But here's the blunt reality of the situation ... COVID is absolutely still in our midst, and we must be mindful of it. We thank you for the action you have taken thus far to protect yourselves and our Panther family. We thank you for masking, social distancing, and maintaining small group sizes. We recognize that has not been easy. We also urge you to please stay the course. Please continue to mask. Please continue to social distance. And please continue to limit group sizes in accordance with EIU guidelines. Together, we continue to Protect Our Panthers."

Greek Life was not permitted to host large social gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a message that was given many times to the community from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Programming.

Sheila Simons, Eastern's lead COVID-19 investigator, shared concerns of the event being a super-spreader.

"There's bound to be cases that come out of this, it's just simply going to happen. How many cases I, of course, can't make a prediction; whether the parties are inside, outside, all of these things are factors. How long are they there, what they're doing, how close they are to people, there's a lot of things that make it difficult to give an estimate on how much cases will increase by but with the situation as it is even if the parties are inside or outside, when you add alcohol you see a lot of behaviors that develop as a result of that because our inhibitions decrease so we're more likely to do things we normally wouldn't do," Simons said.

"That's a concern, those behaviors, because for me and my team I could have a thousand contact tracers but the problem is we're not changing individuals' behaviors and until that happens, behavior change, we're not going to see this go away any time soon, and of course the vaccine is helpful but it's still a concern because of the amount of time it's going to take to get it to the younger age group."

Following the weekend an attendee shared a positive COVID-19 result on social media.

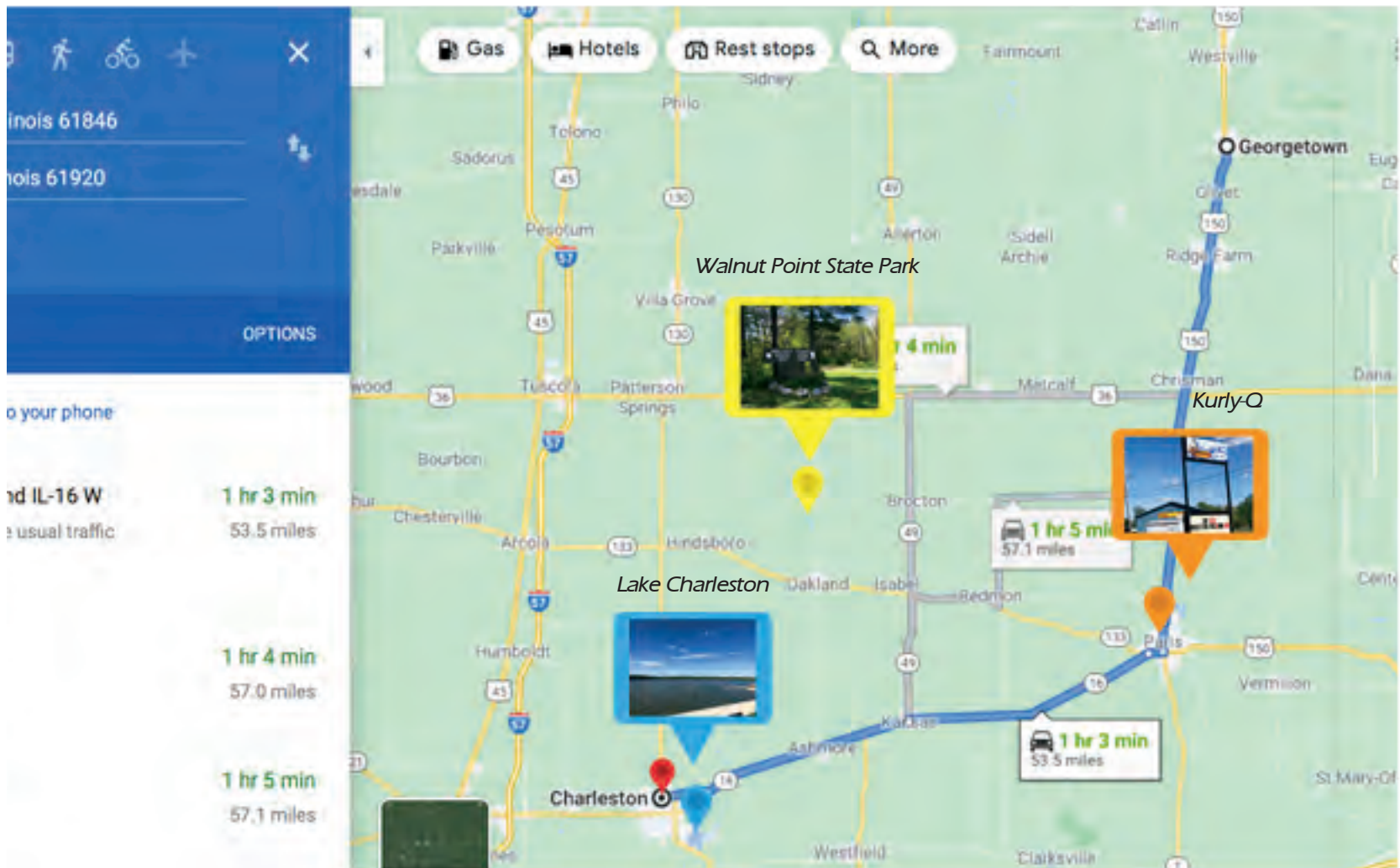
Simons was not surprised at the result.

She said she does not expect to stop infections but hopes to slow them.

"We're not going to stop infections, what we want to do is slow the rate of the infections and that's really what is so critical. That's what we've meant all along by 'flattening the curve,' we just need to slow it down. Slowing it down will help us in the long run."

Students carry on the tradition of Unofficial in a new way despite multiple warnings not to





There and back again ...

Before I enrolled in Eastern, I wanted to look at all the possible ways I could save money. After doing a small amount of brainstorming, I ultimately decided it would save me money, about \$1,200, if I decided to commute to class from my hometown, which is a little over an hour away.

Georgetown is only four turns and 55 miles away from Eastern. For my commute, I



Charleston's welcome sign.

drove 1 hour and 10 minutes in my Toyota Camry to class, roughly 3 ½ hours total round trip.

Fast forward to 2021, and I have now commuted to Eastern for three years and have begun admiring the beauty of practically living in my car.

Over the years, I have found various spots and scenic routes that make the



The view of Walnut State Park from Bryce's car.



The dam at Charleston Lake.



and again

drive that much more enjoyable. A few spots that I have grown to visit more on the commute are the locally known Kurly Q in Paris, Walnut Point State Park, and even Lake Charleston.

Each of these spots has different characteristics, so I choose one depending on my free time and mood: Kurly Q if I am hungry and have time for a bite to eat, Walnut Point State Park if I have my camera and feel a bit creative, and Lake Charleston when I want to get to class early and watch the water flow peacefully in the Dam.

Along with these spots, I recently started listening to podcasts to make the drive quicker. Podcasts I listen to are

"Pardon My Take," "Bussin' with the Boys" and "This Is Important."

Since the fall of 2018, I have driven to Eastern about 305 trips. This commute equates to 915 hours total, which is roughly 5 ½ weeks of driving!!

I have driven 33,550 miles, which also compares to driving from the North Pole to the South Pole and still having over 4,000 miles left.

33,550 miles, two new sets of tires, 120 credit hours, and one speeding ticket has brought me to finally graduating with my

Story and photos by Bryce Herrin;
Graphic by Logan Raschke,
page design by Elizabeth Wood



Marielle Abalos, president of Eastern's Art Association

Creative expression during COVID-19

The dark background of the photograph contrasts strikingly with the glowing ruby red light that seems to outline the oval shape of the antique looking mirror, adorning it like evenly spaced-out beads.

The mirror reflection showing a perfectly captured stranger's face, the striking clarity of the picture adding to the entrancing effect.

The artistic approach to create such an effect seems daunting, but the current effects of the pandemic has impacted the way people are living their lives, and artistic expression is not only helpful, but also needed.

According to the article "Express Yourself: The Therapeutic Benefits of Creativity," by Jenna Mann, "Apart from the therapeutic effects that personal expression can have, I also believe it can be an important way to encapsulate this particular moment in time. It is a way to remember how you are experiencing this particular moment of change in the world."

One great way to do this is jumping into something that you are interested in.

"You should start doing what you know you already like to do, so if you like sculpting get Play-Doh or Crayola air dry clay, and kind of mess with it," says junior Marielle Abalos, president of Eastern's Art Association.

There are many steps to the creative

process. One of the most important things to do when deciding how you want to be creative, is finding what you're naturally drawn to.

Planning and research are also key essentials to the creative process. If you have a specific goal in mind for your artistic expression, it's important to do some background work before the actual execution of the project. No matter the art medium you're using, this is a vital part of making your project, the steps that you take to make a successful project are surprisingly similar, no matter how you're expressing yourself creatively.

Photography and digital design are no exception. Art student Jasmine Rivera, a sophomore art: graphic design major, work with photography as her tool of expression, and said she finds having a process very useful.

"When I do graphic design work, I figure out what I am creating something for, and so I write down everything and search for references on how to create or get an idea design, and once I get that done I do some sketches and play with different elements," Rivera said.

The process for an art piece has a bit of a scientific approach behind it and plays a large role in the creation of the piece.

"I like the process of [art], I have an idea and I like the process of

researching it and learning new things that maybe I didn't think I would learn through art, so a lot of people think you don't really learn with core subject like math or science through art and you're pleasantly surprised with what you may learn," Abalos said.

The way you want to express yourself creatively does not matter so much as the actions you take to go through the process of creating. There is no need for expensive supplies and perfection from your work.

"You don't need any fancy gear to take a really good picture or to make a great design, you can use whatever you have, even if it's not anything digital, you can use anything," Rivera said.

Art is not exclusive, either. Anyone can make the most of their initial skills and learn more.

"It's not inherent," Abalos said. "It's a skill that you build up over time and practice, just like anything else, if you like reading try writing, if you doodle in the margins of your notebook, keep drawing eventually those doors in your mind will open."

Art provides an outlet for expression and has important benefits especially during such an uncharted time in our history.

The time to start showing your creative side is now!

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Skylar Fushi; Photo by: Bryce Herrin





VOLUNTEERING IN A PANDEMIC

COVID-19 regulations has made it harder to participate in various organizations across campus, and volunteering isn't an exception. Despite the regulations, one student has stepped up to volunteer during the pandemic, in any way she can.

Anna Sipes, a freshman from Charleston majoring in biological sciences and world languages and cultures, has been actively volunteering since eighth grade, where she had met Beth Gillespie before she had become the director of the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office (CEVO) at Eastern.

Sipes began volunteering because she wanted to give back to Charleston's community.

"Growing up, I was deeply influenced by caring people in my community who gave of themselves to help me grow – teachers who nurtured my love of learning, coaches who instilled the importance of teamwork and discipline, and church members who demonstrated the importance of love for one another," Sipes said. "As I grew, I wished to give back to my community with the time and talents with which I had been blessed."

When COVID-19 regulations rolled out, some volunteering opportunities provided to students were taken away. Gillespie said many opportunities, such as "Paws with a Cause," were halted because they weren't able to provide rides to prevent putting anyone at risk.

As move-in weekend at Eastern approached, Sipes said Gillespie had expressed concerns that One Stop Community Christmas may not reach its blanket goal for the drive—most of which are provided during Jumpstart during move-in weekend. To help them reach their goal of providing one blanket per registered family, Sipes offered to take some fabric and fleece blankets home.

From August to November, blankets and fabrics began to accumulate in Sipes' living room, and any free spaces on the couch, as she began tying blankets between classes, on weekends, and in the evenings.

"Our couch was completely covered with towers of fabric of all patterns and colors," Sipes said. "By the end of the semester, I think my family was happy for the blankets to be delivered. It was becoming difficult to find a place to sit to watch TV!"

Knot by knot, Sipes slowly filled the gap. Once it was time to deliver the blankets to One Stop Community Christmas, Sipes said she had filled the family van, floor to ceiling, with 100 fleece blankets.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID, the CEVO has been keeping options open for students and offering alternative volunteering activities for students to participate in.

Instead of volunteering in person, the CEVO has been choosing different non-profit groups in the area for students to drop off donations at their office during the spring 2021 semester, Gillespie said. The non-profit groups, and items needed, were sent through emails to students.

"Obviously, during COVID things are a little different. A lot of our community partners are not accepting or inviting volunteers in the same as they would under normal times," Gillespie said, "so we were just trying to find ways to connect with them and still support them, even though things are a little different."

Since then, Sipes has been volunteering every Tuesday and Wednesday at the Newman Catholic Center's Amigos and Friends program and at the Charleston Food Pantry on Thursday evenings. She added that while the pandemic may present some issues when trying to volunteer, it's important to remember that you can still volunteer in other ways.

"It is important to remember, though, that there are always ways to make a difference. During a pandemic, there are likely more needs than ever to meet," Sipes said. "The ways in which we can help meet those needs may just be more unique and creative."



Story by Elizabeth Wood; Page design by Corryn Brock; Brock; Submitted photos

Caeli Haab, a freshman psychology major, Logan Rasmus, a freshman psychology major, and Lilly Pampel, a freshman with an undecided major, all watch the presidential inauguration in Pampel's dorm. The three friends agreed that they became more interested in the election because they would be voting for the first time. Haab said that she wanted to have knowledge of both major candidates due to the drama surrounding them so she would be able to talk about the candidates with others.

2020 election in the dorms

Just as everyone began to think 2020 was winding down, the presidential elections took hold of the country in early November. As the Black Lives Matters movement grew across the nation and COVID-19 deaths soared, politics and President Donald Trump's response to the BLM movement became hot debate topics in the country. Trump and presidential candidate Joe Biden exchanged sharp criticisms of each other's policies; the first presidential debate turned into a shouting match between candidates and the moderator. For the first time in history, the nonpartisan committee that oversees the debates decided to implement a mute button on the candidates' mics, but the event was later canceled as Trump refused to an online debate. Instead, candidates held separate town halls on ABC and NBC to talk about their policies.

Once Nov. 3 came, nearly 160 million people voted either in person or through mail-in ballots, with 2020 having the biggest voter turnout in history. The vote was released a few days later, naming Biden the next president. Despite several recounts, the electoral votes were counted on Jan. 6, when Trump supporters marched down to Capitol Hill to show their support for Trump. The crowd then grew agitated and stormed the Capitol Building, delaying the final electoral votes by several hours. Finally, in the early morning, the electoral votes confirmed Biden's presidency.

Lilly Pampel, a freshman communications studies major

My friends and I have had multiple discussions about this year's election. The three of us have different political views, but we all can come together and agree that this year's election was stressful, important and one we will never forget. Logan Rasmus, a freshman psychology major, learned about Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death through TikTok surprisingly and they were shocked by all of the bad outcomes that came from her death with her seat being filled on the Supreme Court.

"I was pretty sad and upset," Rasmus said, "and since I first saw it on TikTok my first thought was like 'is this really true? Did this really happen?' I went on Google to confirm it,



and the rest of my day was filled with things about her death and what she did in her lifetime.” On the night of the election between Trump versus Biden, I stayed up all night with Logan waiting to see who was going to win. When we woke up, we both were shocked and upset to see that the votes were still being counted!

We both were frustrated that we wouldn’t know who our future present was going to be until a few days after the election. Finally, once the votes were fully accounted for, we were both certainly pleased and relieved that Biden won.

The morning of Biden’s inauguration, I woke up early and started watching all the way up until after Biden’s speech. In Professor Brian Mann’s history class that same day, we discussed how important this is for our country and for our futures as upcoming adults.

Later that day, Logan and Caeli Haab, also a

freshman psychology major, and I watched a recap of the inauguration, so we all had a basic understanding of what exactly happened with each speaker.

This year was my first year to vote in the United States along with millions of other 18-year-olds in college.

Caeli voted for the first time this year by mail, and she told me that she felt “accomplished” after voting. Caeli said she felt like voting in the election is an important milestone in life that everyone should have the opportunity to experience.

This past election was very important to me. This was my first year being able to vote in the United States, and I was not going to let that constitutional right go to waste.

Story by Lilly Pampel;
Introduction and Photo by Elizabeth Wood;
Page design by Corryn Brock

Running at Eastern:

When and where students can safely run on campus

For those looking to run, Eastern’s campus and Charleston’s community offer plenty of trails and roads for runners of all skill levels.

Where to Run

Erin Howarth, Eastern’s cross country and track distance coach of 11 years, recommended the Panther Trail that loops around the athletic fields for an easy run near campus.

“If it’s a run that I’m trying to recover and just kind of go slow and not think too much, then the Panther Trail is awesome,” she said. “... It’s safe, and you don’t have to worry about traffic or stopping for a stoplight.”

Even the material of the surface one is running on can play a part in staying healthy, Howarth said, noting the Panther Trail’s composition of crushed limestone.

Charleston’s unique terrain, alternating between the flatness of Lincoln Avenue and the steep slopes of Lake Charleston, could possibly be attributed to glacial movement, Howarth said.

“Apparently way back when-I’m not that good with historical stuff- but there was a glacier that ran all the way through this area on the south side, that’s why it seems so weird, it’s flat, flat, flat, flat, and then all of a sudden you’ve got these huge ridges and creeks and rivers,” Howarth said.

Corbin Schwable, a sophomore physical education major and runner for Eastern’s cross country and track teams, said that the variation in Charleston’s landscape keeps runs from getting boring.

“It’s kind of weird. The amount of hills and curvy roads that we have, I wouldn’t expect it from being out in central Illinois,” Schwable said. “Most of our routes are loops, and there’s quite a bit of turns and curves and different hills where it never really gets boring.”

Fox Ridge State Park, located 8 miles south of Charleston, is another destination where the Eastern cross country teams do their runs. According to the park’s page on Illinois’ Department of Natural Resources website, it offers 8 miles of trails with abundant wildlife and the option to exercise along the Embarras River.

“You never really run the same trail twice,” Schwable said. “... Same trail as in on the same run. So we’ll do the same route the entire time, but we never double back really and run the same section.”

How to Run and With Whom

Howarth recommended that aspiring runners spread out their time spent running in order to build up slowly to be able to run faster and for longer distances.

“I think now is just a great time to say ‘OK, I’m going to start with maybe a minute of running, a minute of walking, a minute of running, a minute of walking,’ and then see how that goes for the first week,” Howarth said. “... Just kind of build up as slow as you need to.”

Howarth also said that basing runs off time spent running rather than distance ran is easier on one’s head.

“If you kind of go off the minutes rather than how far have I run, it’s I think a lot easier mentally,” Howarth said.

For those interested in running with others, social media is one way to meet other people interested in running.

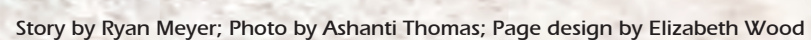
“Honestly the best bet would be to just run at those times where everybody would be running, or try to start a Facebook group or a club, and maybe send it out or have the university send it out,” Schwable said.

Finding a time to run and sticking to it is another way someone looking for people to run with to meet other runners, Schwable said.

“7 to 8 a.m. seems like a pretty popular time for people to be up and running,” Schwable said. “If you start running at the same time you’re bound to run into the same people every day and then maybe you could start talking to them and meet up with them.”

How to run while living at Eastern:

- Start slow to avoid getting discouraged
- Find other runners and start a group
- Make good use of the trails and parks near campus
- Use the Panther Trail if you’re looking for a route close to campus





Counseling in COVID

As COVID-19 persisted through the summer and well into the school year, the Counseling Center saw an increase in students coming in for help. Lindsay Wilson, a clinical counselor, discusses how the center adapted to COVID, and how the pandemic impacted mental health.

Q: Has the counseling center seen more people signing up to go to therapy this year?

A: While the numbers may look drastically different, when considering the number of staff last year versus this year, complexity of cases being seen, etc. the number of students seeking services with our office this fall seems fairly comparable to last fall.

Q: If you had to guess, how many students have signed up compared to last year?

A: Last year, at this time, we had about 300 clients. So far this year, we've had around 200 clients.

Q: How do therapy sessions work within the pandemic's guidelines? Is it efficient?

A: Since the start of the pandemic, we have been providing teletherapy, either by phone or video conferencing. As with many things, I think there are definitely pros and cons to teletherapy. For instance, teletherapy can be very convenient for clients, as they are able to still attend a session, even if they leave Charleston (so long as they are within the state of Illinois). However, sometimes it seems as though there is a therapeutic element lost, when not sharing physical space with a person.

Q: I heard there was a waiting list last year, is there one this year? How long would students have to wait if they were on the waiting list?

A: Yes. Unfortunately, there is a wait list this year. The length of time waiting for an appointment can truly vary. Clinician are pulling from the list as soon as they have room on their caseload. We are also currently in the process of hiring another counselor.

Q: How does the pandemic affect our mental health, for those who have mental health illnesses and those who

A: Whether a person struggles with mental health issues or not, the pandemic has likely impacted everyone in some way, shape, or form. The pandemic brought with it many changes and adjustments. Many people's routines were thrown off track, and our norm was no longer our norm. This pandemic has brought with it many uncertainties and unknowns. There has been a level of grieving for many people. Not only if they lost a loved one during this pandemic, but also grief related to other losses such as loss of a job or loss of having a graduation. We are all being strongly encouraged to practice social distancing and some are even having to quarantine. While it is great that we have the ability to connect with others through phone calls, texts, social media, video conferencing, etc. this pandemic has been (and continues to be) very lonely for many people. We also know that stress can exacerbate symptoms. If a person has struggled with mental health symptoms before, they may find that these symptoms have returned and/or have increased or intensified.



Lindsay Wilson's staff portrait.

Q: How does online classes affect us?

A: Online classes impact everyone differently. Some students love online classes, whereas others struggle with distanced learning and online learning platforms. As stated early, many have experienced an increased sense of seclusion. Online classes, for some, only furthers this isolation and loneliness. Some students have struggled with all the different online platforms and programs used, as well as some classes being in person, some online, and some hybrid. It seems there are a lot more moving parts to classes this year, with a variety of ways that instructors are providing the information and requiring assignments to be submitted...it can be difficult for students to keep up with it all and to keep it all straight.

Story by Elizabeth Wood; Photo by Bryce Herrin, Page design by Corryn Brock





Chris Sheeran, a senior Spanish major, is cutting cartons of eggs in half to prepare the food pantry fridge.

Newman food pantry providing for those in need

Originally printed in *The Daily Eastern News*, April 15, 2021

The Newman Center Food Pantry has been running in the basement of the Newman Catholic Center for years, helping provide Eastern students with the food they need.

The food pantry is run mainly by Eastern students. Though the food pantry has students who volunteer there on a regular basis, they also accept anybody who comes in randomly to help.

Members of the Catholic Center also help, either by buying food from nearby grocery stores or running the food pantry if there are not enough volunteers.

The pantry is open from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, and during that time students can stop by the catholic center to pick up whatever food items they need.

Eastern students can visit the pantry once a week and must have a valid Panther ID card to receive the pantry’s services,

since they are only available to students.

Doris Nordin, a Charleston resident and campus minister, volunteers for the food pantry. She explained that the services are not just open to Eastern students, but also to students in the Charleston area. “It’s open to anybody who is a student,” Nordin said. “Eastern, Lakeland or Lakeview.”

Aside from a student ID, the food pantry also wants students to start bringing their own bags, as it would make the process easier.

“We would love it if everyone would come with their bag,” Nordin said. “We don’t want to buy plastic bags just to give away. Sometimes we give away recyclable bags that we use, and they bring them back.”

When students visit the pantry, they receive a form listing the many food items available at the Newman Center Food Pantry.

Students can then check off the items that they want and hand it to one of the volunteers. Another volunteer will then take the sheet and go into the food pantry themselves, picking out the items the students checked off on the list for them.

This process is one that is very new to the

Newman Center Food Pantry volunteers. They decided to start providing their services in that manner to do their part in protecting the community from Covid.

"Before COVID, usually people would come inside and shop themselves," Nordin said. "Because of COVID and to avoid people touching everything, we give them that form and they fill it out."

Chris Sheeran, a senior Spanish student, regularly volunteers at the food pantry. He explained that the food pantry has many available food items, including many refrigerated items.

"The refrigerated section has milk, orange juice, eggs, butter, cheese, and yogurt," Sheeran said. "Because we are part of a larger food pantry, sometimes they send us discounted goods like almond milk and stuff like that at a special price."

The food pantry also has non-refrigerated items.

"On the non-refrigerated section, we have mostly canned stuff like beans, carrots, any kind of vegetable really," Sheeran said. "We have pasta, canned fruits, ramen, and macaroni and cheese."

Though the food pantry gets a lot of their food from the larger food pantry they are a part of, the

Eastern Illinois Foodbank, they accept donated goods from people of the community.

Those food items include items they would not typically give away, such as onions, potatoes, fresh vegetables, and other food items.

In past years, the food pantry used to have lots

of students stop by weekly to grab the food items they needed, but since then, things have changed.

"In the past, we've had a lot more [students]," Sheeran said. "We've had anywhere from 20 to 50 students per week. In Spring 2020, before COVID hit, we were getting close

to almost 100 people per week. Now sadly, I'm not sure why, the numbers have really dropped off to only like five people."

Because numbers have been so low, they have more food than people to provide it to. Most recently, the food pantry had some milk that went bad from how long it was sitting in the fridge.

"We really want people to come and utilize the service because sometimes we buy more than we need," Sheeran said.

"We have stuff that we waste, and I think that's kind of sad. To have food go to waste when it's literally free."

Volunteers at the food pantry are hoping that by next semester they can change the way they provide their services so they can best serve the students.

"We're here to serve the students," Nordin said. "We are here to serve whoever is in need of food. We don't want anybody to suffer because they don't have food."



Aaliyah James, a sophomore business management major (left) and Jada Laws, a sophomore economics major, decide on where items need to be placed for the people coming.



Breathe in ... Breathe out

The mountain of assignments seems to be taller than Mt. Everest these days. Chip away at a few readings or discussion posts everyday only to get more the next day.

It's hard to see the top of the mountain, and sometimes it's hard to breathe under all this pressure of deadlines, tests, and goals.

Even with years of research on stress management, sometimes it is stressful to figure out what practice works best. Physical exercise, eating healthy, time management, social support, and a dozen other methods help a lot of people.

But there is one process that has been recommended by most professionals: Mindfulness, a technique used to be aware of feelings and emotions in the present.

Lauren Geyer, a junior psychology major, has been practicing mindfulness for a couple of years. Geyer and her group of three friends come together every night at her university apartment to sit on decorative pillows and meditate.

Sitting cross-legged on a black and white striped pattern pillow with a fuzzy black trim, Geyer leads her group to "breathe in and out."

With all their eyes closed, they stay focused on their breaths. Deeply breathing in and then exhaling slowly.

For 20 minutes, the four women sit perfectly straight up with their legs crossed. They try not to fiddle with their fingers or let their posture fold.

It's quiet, except for the reminder to breathe in and out every so often.

They spend the whole time focusing on pushing away thoughts in order to reach a state of peace and relaxation when the brain is calmed.

"It's really common to start thinking of random things during the process," Geyer explained.

"Some days I have a hard time focusing, so I have to make sure we are pulling away from random thoughts and coming back to the moment."

It may seem confusing how the process works and hard to see the results, but Geyer and her friends are true believers that meditating has been a positive in their lives and has done wonders for their mental well-being.

"It totally works for me," Geyer said. "Before, I would always wake up tired and had no energy throughout the day. I randomly saw a post on Instagram about some celebrity doing meditation, and I had always thought 'no way this actually works,' but then I gave it a try.

"It took a while, but I started waking up more refreshed and my focus in classes has definitely improved."

Geyer and her friends say their attitudes on life have become more positive generally. They still have tough days where they get stressed, but they say meditating is their best coping mechanism.

Samantha Boomgarden, a mental health coordinator at the Health Education Resource Center at Eastern, also said she believes meditation can be a great tool to decrease stress.

She said meditation can slow the heart rate to allow you to focus.

With a slowed heart rate, the brain relaxes and the chemicals released when we are stressed start to decrease.

However, that practice is probably not used by most college students.

Boomgarden said students use a distraction technique, taking a break from a stressful moment, like writing a paper by watching an episode or two on Netflix.

It is a useful technique, Boomgarden explains, but she said she thinks the best way to properly use it is to set a time limit on the break: Let the stress dissolve and then come back in a different mindset.

Boomgarden even suggested having multiple different outlets to release stress can be beneficial.

"Our mind and our body are tightly linked, so we want to take care of our body in order to manage our stress levels," Boomgarden said, suggesting that people should also try to eat healthy, be active, and talk about the source of the stress.

Stress is all around us, especially in these times. Take a deep breath, realize your feelings, and use a tool to safely manage them.



Geyer says this is her "zen area" where she keeps all of her meditation equipment.

Top 5 Binged Shows of 2020



The Office
(Photo by: NBCUniversal)



Community
(Photo by: Yahoo Screen)

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe

Top 5 Video Games of 2020



Animal Crossing: New Horizons
(Photo by: Morgan Bledsoe)



Among Us
(Photo by: Morgan Bledsoe)

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe

Dorm Room Recipe: Whipped Coffee

As COVID began to sweep the nation, many turned to an app called Tik Tok to pass the time spent in statewide, and eventually nationwide, lockdowns and curfews. During the lockdowns and quarantine, Tik Tok became an extremely popular app where many showed their “quarantine glow-ups” like skin care or exercise routines to do at home. Among the trends that came through Tik Tok, whipped coffee became increasingly popular as Tik Tokers began to take videos of themselves taste testing the drink to see if the drink was worth the hype. As whipped coffee took hold of the Internet, many alternatives like whipped chocolate milk also surfaced.

For this recipe you will need a medium sized bowl, a spoon or whisk, measuring spoons and a cup.

Ingredients:

2 tsp of instant coffee

2 tsp of sugar

2 tsp of hot water

2 tsp of vanilla extract or any flavor of your choosing (optional)

Serving size: 1 cup.

First, add the instant coffee and sugar into a bowl, then add your water. If you are adding vanilla or flavoring, you would add it in with the water.

Next, you’ll want to get a spoon or a whisk and stir until the mixture forms soft peaks or until it is a light brown (about 10-20 minutes depending on how fast you stir, a mixer will speed the process up but isn’t required. Many put the mixture in a jar and shake it as well).

Once it is light brown, scoop out the desired amount into a cup.

Then, add milk and stir. You may also add ice if you prefer.

For added flavor, try drizzling some honey on top.



Dorm Room Recipe:

Whipped Chocolate Milk



For this recipe you will need a medium sized bowl, a spoon or whisk, measuring spoons and a cup.

Ingredients:

2 tbs of coco powder or chocolate milk mix

2 tbs of sugar

4 tbs of heavy cream

Serving size: 1 cup.

Add the coco powder, sugar, and heavy cream into a bowl and mix until fluffy or until it has a smooth texture (like whipped cream).

Scoop the desired amount into a cup and add milk and ice as desired.

For added flavor, try adding some cinnamon.



Khai Thompkins, a sophomore criminal justice major, cleans the rec center equipment and says her job is "to keep the SRC clean so that our patrons can exercise without having to worry about dirty equipment and the virus."

The REC

The Student Recreation Center is one of the many resources on campus that has adjusted their guidelines for student health and safety.

Paul Noble, the Operations and Programs Coordinator, said one of the main new procedures, wearing a mask is always required for students in the SRC.

"We want masking at all times, so anytime you're in the facility you must have the appropriate face mask on, covering your mouth and nose," said Noble.

The SRC has also encouraged social distancing by removing equipment from the weight room, spacing the remaining equipment out, and taping the floor around the equipment to show students where they should be while using the equipment.

New cleaning procedures have been implemented in the SRC as well.

"We've increased cleaning stations around the building, so there's more binning (trash) stations. We're closing an hour and a half early every night, doing increased sanitation procedures," Noble said. "We have increased staff on the floor, so that between each use, the machines can be adequately sanitized and cleaned."

SRC Director Sarah Daugherty said, there is no checking out of any equipment besides a mat from the SRC office and there are no reserving spaces.

"We are not reserving space at all," Daugherty said. "So, dance studio, aerobics room, basketball courts, anything we do not do any reservations at all."

The areas open for use to students are the cardio area, tread wall, weight room, strength machines, E-sports arena, and the lobby, which includes lockers.

There are still many other resources available to students in the SRC, such as group fitness classes, E-Sports (PC only), special event intramural sports, and the pool, but in order to use those spaces, a spot must be reserved.

"You have to reserve space in a group fitness class, but that way it allows us to know who's here. Same thing for E-Sports. They have to reserve space in the arena in order to play and we had to space that out, obviously, quite a bit. And then in the pool, we require reservations. Because of the number of people that we have had, they have to make a reservation to use a lane," Daugherty said. "It also allows us to track who's here, so, worst case scenario, we can do contact tracing as well."

If a student is interested in reserving a spot for a class or the arena for E-Sports, go to the website imleagues.com/eiu or you can find the link on the campus recreation website.

Pool reservations are done through the SRC office, and they can be reached at 581-2820.

SRC Assistant Director Kevin Linker explained how people can sign up.

"Once they're on IMleagues, they use their PAWS credentials. Just like they're logging into PAWS, they log into IMleagues that way with those credentials. You get there and there's a spot for the intermural sports, there's a spot for groupex, and then the E-Sports arena. And once you click

on groupex, it shows you the weeks' worth of classes and which classes are available. If you click on those, it shows you how many spots are left, and you can sign up for a class that way," Linker said. "Students can sign up a week in advance, but they might not be available before a week in advance, even though the whole semester is already on there."

The occupancy limitation in the SRC is 175 people at one time, and only 20 of those people are allowed in the weight room at once.

The staff is keeping track of how many people come into the SRC, but, as of recently, their daily use does not typically exceed 175.

"We haven't had to turn anyone away," Daugherty said.

Basic gym rules still apply in the SRC, so students must follow the current apparel policy.

"All the things you would expect to happen in a gym, we still have all of those things in place as well to make sure that we're still maintaining everyone's safety, not just from Covid, but from everything that's potentially harmful," Daugherty said.

These policies are in place keep everyone in the SRC as safe as possible and protect the student body.

"We understand that they can be frustrating, and we understand that they're weird and alienating, but it's there to protect you and it's there so that we can stay open. We want to stay open and that's the reason we've put all of these things in place," Noble said. "We're doing it for no other reason, but for your benefit."

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Heather Vosburgh; Photos by: Ashanti Thomas and Elizabeth Wood

Trainers at the REC

Standing in the middle of your room, you patiently watch the screen of your laptop. A student instructor paces across your screen, while keeping an eye on their watch, a few times they adjust the camera to get a better angle of the gym. With one last glance at their watch, they clap their hands together.

"Let's begin."

Among the changes made to accommodate COVID-19, the Student Recreation Center has adapted its fitness classes to meet the necessary guidelines. One such adjustment in the fall semester was doing exercising classes through Instagram Live.

The REC Center hosted the live workouts on its page, "EIU Group Fitness."

Evita Chinchilla, a junior majoring in nutrition and dietetics, teaches five classes at the REC: Zumba, Barre, Werk, Step It Up, as well as Rise and Grind. While the format was different, she said she liked teaching classes through Instagram Live and quite a few people would show up to classes.

"We usually had a good amount of people show up to my Zumba classes," Chinchilla said, "so it was really fun to see everyone commenting during the breaks and stuff. It was fun, but I definitely like in person more, I get to interact more [with people]."

Eric Williams, a junior majoring in exercise science, teaches an abs class,

high-intensity interval training (HIIT), and a deep stretching class. Williams said that he liked seeing his family and friends on the viewers list.

"I liked seeing like my family and my friends jumping in on the viewers list," Williams said, "so when I'm watching, I'll be working out, then I come to see [if] any comments [are] dropping, and I see my friends join in there, so that was fun. I'm just pretty much shouting them out and they're supporting me, even though they're not like in my class and necessarily watching they may be doing it at home."

Both Williams and Chinchilla said they liked reading and watching the comments in the chat room during breaks in the work out.

While Williams enjoyed teaching on Instagram Live, he said it was a transition to go from online to in person classes.

"It's definitely a transition just being in front of people, having to see people, having to see people come back, and know their names," Williams said. "One thing that I'm like big on, is that I try to learn everyone's name that comes into my class, so if I don't remember their name, I'll do pushups."

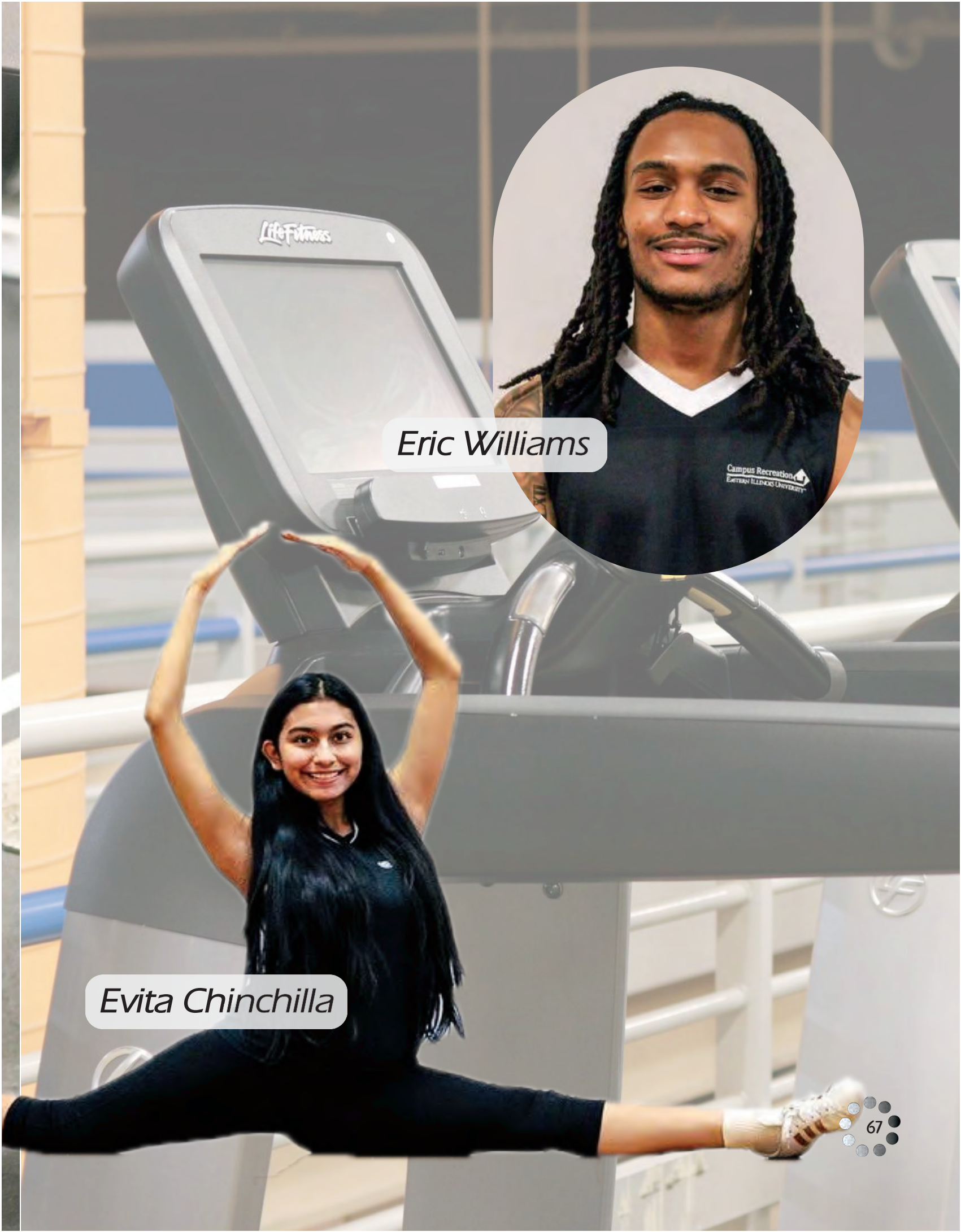
Chinchilla said she likes to develop a community aspect in her classes, something that was hard to establish online and with COVID-19 guidelines.

"I really like to have community, and I think that's really important in fitness classes, especially when you need motivation," Chinchilla said. "It's good to, you know, maybe someone gets done with like a round of pushups and they're like 'oh good job, high-five' or whatever. I think that's definitely a missing aspect. With dance, I have a lot of dances that are group dances or a line dance, but with COVID you can't really do that anymore. For me personally, as a fitness instructor, I really feel like the masks also make it really difficult, for the participants as well, because it gets really hard to breathe, especially when you're doing something that's like super high intense."

Williams said he felt that in-person classes offer equipment and tools that will motivate people to come into his classes.

"When I was on Instagram Live, not everything that we have at the REC is offered at home, so a lot of people don't have those things to use," Williams said. "It was just fun for people to actually come in, and we're able to use the tools and equipment that we have, which makes it feel like [it's] making participants come back because it's like why come to my class when they can do those things at home, so I try to offer things that are unique, different, or challenging."

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Elizabeth Wood; Photos by: Ashanti Thomas, Eric Williams and Evita Chinchilla



Eric Williams

Evita Chinchilla

Walsworth

BLACK
LIVES
MATTER.

To the Students, Faculty, Staff, and the entire EIU Family,

2020 was a year where we all had to succumb to a new way of life because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the stay-at-home orders implemented as a result, we had more free time and less distractions. So, when George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, was killed by Minneapolis police, the world was paying attention! One of the most diverse protest in US history ensued. Millions of people from almost every US state and over 40 countries joined the fight for equality and against police brutality. We were forced to address the inequities and the injustice people of color every day in this country. George Floyd was not an isolated incident. Breonna Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson, Botham Jean, Philando Castille, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, and the list goes on. However, George Floyd was different. The world was no longer occupied with their own daily routine. They were watching and they were able to see it for themselves. People everywhere took to the streets to insist, BLACK LIVES MATTER!

What does that mean, Black Lives Matter (BLM)? BLM is about unifying the people to fight racism and injustice. This is not an anti-white or anti police movement, but a call to join us in our fight for equality. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Through protests, marches, and rallies in support of the movement, a diverse coalition of people demanded change. We saw beautiful expressions of creativity with works of art, spoken words, songs, and dances to represent unity and passion for our fellow man & woman. Most importantly we saw that people were no longer willing to remain silent and compliant. We saw our White allies use their privilege and their voice to stand in solidarity with BLM and educate themselves on the experience of Black Americans in America. The world stood with us to help the words of our founders, Liberty and Justice for ALL, not just be a slogan but become a realized experience of all those who inhabit this great land.

Every EIU constituent has the opportunity to understand racist and discriminatory practices and condemn them everywhere they see it. There is strength in numbers and together we can take a stand against racial injustice, but we need to do this together. As a chapter of N.A.A.C.P. Youth & College division we aim to uphold our mission to inform youth of the problems affecting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities; to advance the economic, education, social and political status of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities and their harmonious cooperation with other peoples; to stimulate an appreciation of the African Diaspora and other people of color’s contribution to civilization; and to develop an intelligent, militant effective youth leadership. We are committed to working with EIU leadership to push for a more equitable, accessible, and safer campus for all our students.

Sincerely,
EIU’s NAACP



Page design by Corryn Brock



ACTIVISM AT EASTERN:

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE AN ACTIVIST?

Out of all the movements that have emerged from the atrocities against marginalized groups, Black Lives Matter has been in the limelight as of recent.

Black Lives Matter is a political and social organization that aims to bring an end to the violence and brutality that is inflicted upon black people by police.

The movement has been ushered into Charleston, Illinois, by two young women: Morgan Colvin, a graduate assistant in political science, and Keshyra Bluminberg, a senior English education major.

"We wanted to be a voice on campus for those who aren't brave enough to speak up or, for those who don't feel like they have a voice," Bluminberg said.

The women initially brought attention to themselves when they attempted to try raise the Black Lives Matter flag on Eastern's campus in 2018, an act that they are still fighting for.

The two had a myriad of different ideas on how they would display their message to the community. Unfortunately, Covid-19 ran rampant across the United States, and Coles County was not immune. The women had to readjust their strategies and continue their effort for justice another way.

For those who want to do the same thing, it may be confusing on where to start with your activism, and whether beginning a movement is even worth attempting.

Activism requires a great extent of determination and persistence.

- "Call your local government and authorities" Colvin said. One of the best ways to get your voice heard is speaking directly to the people who have the power to change laws. Things may not shift overnight, but the need is out there and now the need is being made known.

- "Organize and create a council. Maybe hold a virtual council meeting." Although they were okay with doing the work by themselves, garnering a team to assist their movement would help Black Lives Matter reach more people in the area and at a faster rate. Colvin also says that petitions never hurt when fighting for a cause and that there is strength in numbers. This would ensure that whatever you are championing for is something that other people subscribe to as well, and the meeting would establish some structure in terms of planning demonstrations or other acts of protest.

- "It's really important for us to have the support, but also the proactivity on top of that." With the country's COVID-19 rates rising, demonstrations might not be the most feasible thing to do; however, there is always something that can be done inside. A few months ago, to bring awareness to police brutality victims, people posted black squares on their social media accounts with the hashtag Black Out Tuesday. People would use their platforms to address the wrongs of the justice system, especially regarding the murder of Breonna Taylor. Utilizing social media and technology is one of the reasons why Black Lives Matter has probably reached so many people in the first place.

- Create a page for your cause. You can follow Colvin and Bluminberg at BLM at EIU on Instagram and Facebook. Be active on your social media and engage with people who have questions, concerns, or who just want to speak about the issues. By doing this, Colvin says, is helping implement real change.

At the start, it may seem like what you're doing is inconsequential, but change is not something that should be rushed in order to be effective and long lasting.

It takes patience and a clear vision, and according to these two, a passion for truly wanting to help people, whether it directly or indirectly affects you as a person. There are so many things that need to be rectified in the world today, if there is a need and you feel strongly for it, be the one to lead.

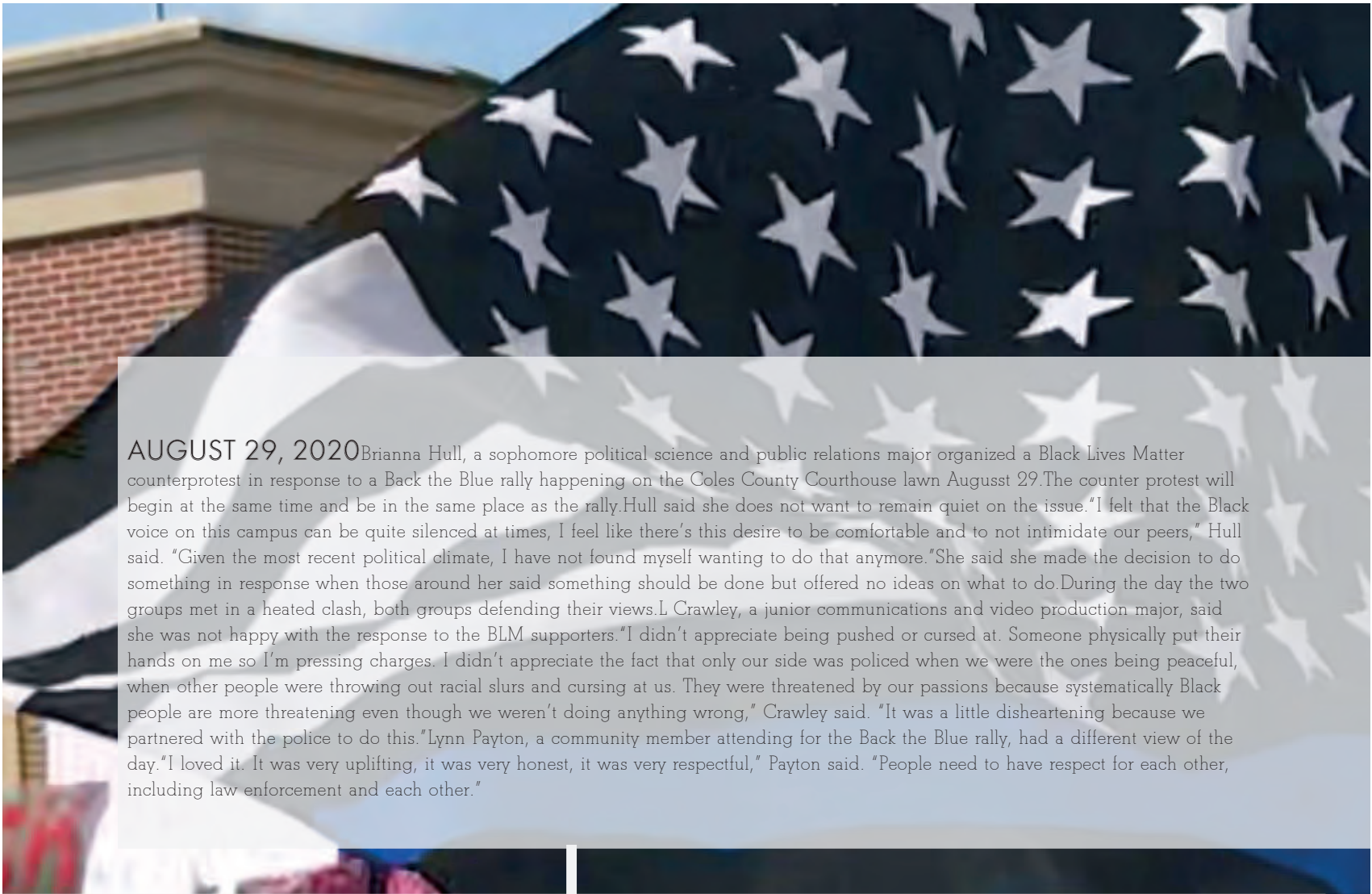
EIU BLM TIMELINE

AUGUST 24, 2020

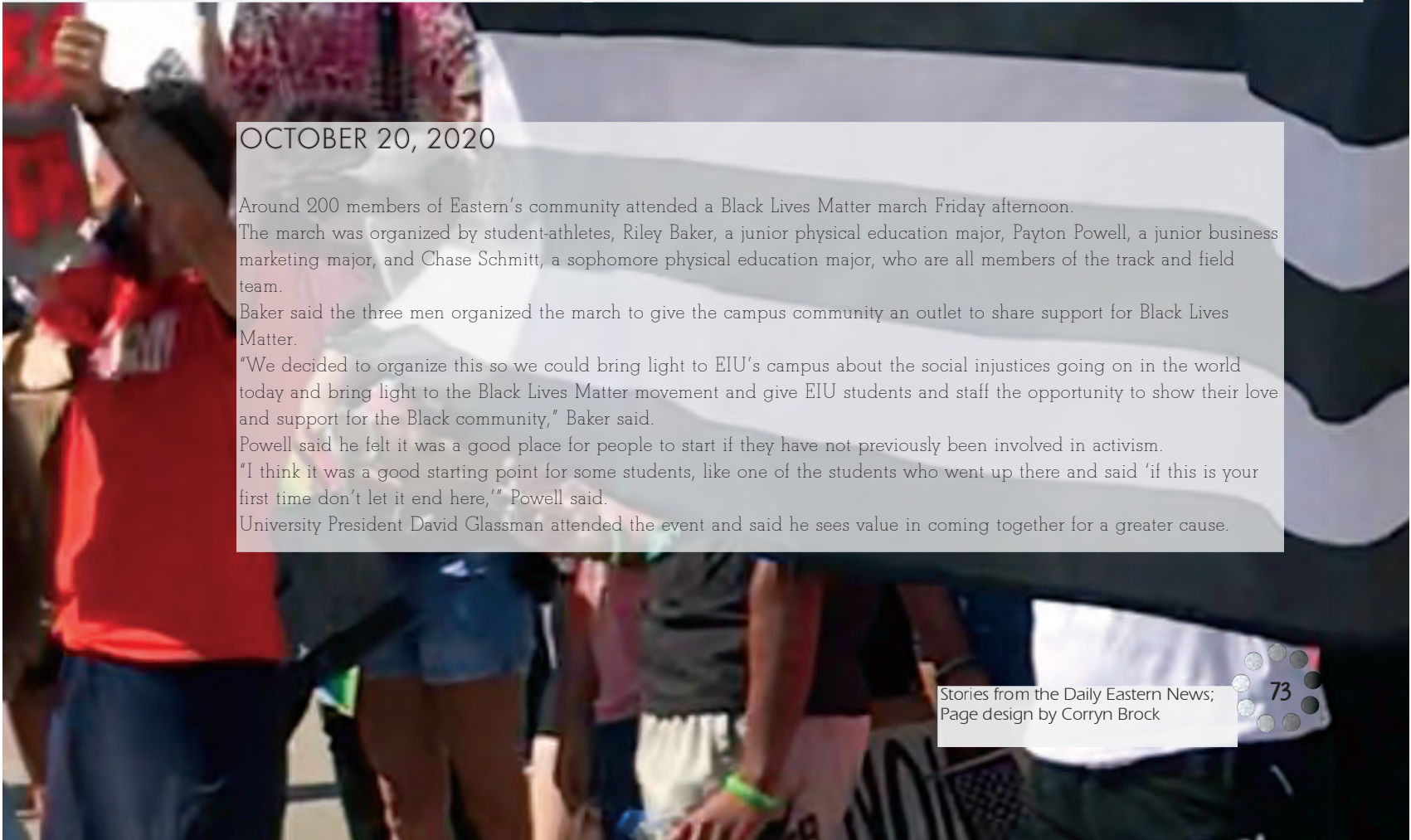
Morgan Colvin, a graduate student studying public admin/public policy, and Shyra Bluminberg, a graduate student studying English education, the two individuals who led the charge for a Black Lives Matter flag to be flown on campus dub the first week of classes "Black Lives Matter Week" and encourage students to engage with the movement while respecting COVID-19 guidelines. "We're letting everyone know we're here and (BLM) is coming to Eastern whether they like it or not, Black Lives Matter is going to be here and we're here to stay," Bluminberg said. "(Our goal) is to be that voice for black students on campus." Colvin explained the goal behind the women's plans. She said they wanted their efforts to be match by the university. "What I see is a lot of Black students feel alone or that the campus doesn't really care about them or that the school doesn't really care about them and us being in our RSOs we try to make them feel welcome and more at home but it's always being put on the students instead of the university and ultimately it's the university's responsibility to also take care of their Black students," Colvin said. "...We want to be able to start those conversations and come up with solutions because it's kind of tiring going to event after event and preaching to the choir. It's like where are the solutions coming from? Our Black students are suffering."

AUGUST 28, 2020

Around 200 members of Eastern's community attended a Black Lives Matter march Friday afternoon. The march was organized by student-athletes, Riley Baker, a junior physical education major, Payton Powell, a junior business marketing major, and Chase Schmitt, a sophomore physical education major, who are all members of the track and field team. Baker said the three men organized the march to give the campus community an outlet to share support for Black Lives Matter. "We decided to organize this so we could bring light to EIU's campus about the social injustices going on in the world today and bring light to the Black Lives Matter movement and give EIU students and staff the opportunity to show their love and support for the Black community," Baker said. Powell said he felt it was a good place for people to start if they have not previously been involved in activism. "I think it was a good starting point for some students, like one of the students who went up there and said 'if this is your first time don't let it end here,'" Powell said. University President David Glassman attended the event and said he sees value in coming together for a greater cause.



AUGUST 29, 2020Brianna Hull, a sophomore political science and public relations major organized a Black Lives Matter counterprotest in response to a Back the Blue rally happening on the Coles County Courthouse lawn Augusst 29.The counter protest will begin at the same time and be in the same place as the rally.Hull said she does not want to remain quiet on the issue.“I felt that the Black voice on this campus can be quite silenced at times, I feel like there’s this desire to be comfortable and to not intimidate our peers,” Hull said. “Given the most recent political climate, I have not found myself wanting to do that anymore.”She said she made the decision to do something in response when those around her said something should be done but offered no ideas on what to do.During the day the two groups met in a heated clash, both groups defending their views.L Crawley, a junior communications and video production major, said she was not happy with the response to the BLM supporters.“I didn’t appreciate being pushed or cursed at. Someone physically put their hands on me so I’m pressing charges. I didn’t appreciate the fact that only our side was policed when we were the ones being peaceful, when other people were throwing out racial slurs and cursing at us. They were threatened by our passions because systematically Black people are more threatening even though we weren’t doing anything wrong,” Crawley said. “It was a little disheartening because we partnered with the police to do this.”Lynn Payton, a community member attending for the Back the Blue rally, had a different view of the day.“I loved it. It was very uplifting, it was very honest, it was very respectful,” Payton said. “People need to have respect for each other, including law enforcement and each other.”



OCTOBER 20, 2020

Around 200 members of Eastern’s community attended a Black Lives Matter march Friday afternoon. The march was organized by student-athletes, Riley Baker, a junior physical education major, Payton Powell, a junior business marketing major, and Chase Schmitt, a sophomore physical education major, who are all members of the track and field team. Baker said the three men organized the march to give the campus community an outlet to share support for Black Lives Matter. “We decided to organize this so we could bring light to EIU’s campus about the social injustices going on in the world today and bring light to the Black Lives Matter movement and give EIU students and staff the opportunity to show their love and support for the Black community,” Baker said. Powell said he felt it was a good place for people to start if they have not previously been involved in activism. “I think it was a good starting point for some students, like one of the students who went up there and said ‘if this is your first time don’t let it end here,’” Powell said. University President David Glassman attended the event and said he sees value in coming together for a greater cause.

Walsworth



125th



125th Birthday Bash

The Homecoming Committee hosted a birthday party, or rather a “Birthday Bash,” to celebrate Eastern’s 125th birthday on Sept. 28 under Martian Luther King Jr. University Student Union’s overpass.

Throughout the afternoon, Homecoming Committee members waved students over to their stand to sign up for a raffle and grab a cake pop.

Holly Olson, the Homecoming Committee chair and junior business management major, said students will know the results of the raffle by the end of the week. She added the 125th Birthday Bash kicked off homecoming week, but there’s a lot of Homecoming COVID friendly events planned.

“We have a lot of virtual spirit challenges happening,” Olson said, “so if you follow and like our social media pages, you’ll be able to see all of those and enter to win things.”

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, some past Homecoming events had to be canceled and students will have to sign up for events like cosmic bowling on Wednesday or for movie night on Saturday, where they would need time to sanitize between bowling groups or before and after movie night.

It’s really sad that we might have to cut, you know, various events, such as, like I know our golf cart trivia was really popular last year,” Olson said, “but that wasn’t something we were able to do this year because of social distancing and COVID-19 protocols.”

Olson said she’s glad Eastern is able to have Homecoming week still, despite COVID-19.

“We really wanted to keep it just because like it is a big celebration of the university,” Olson said, “we just thought it was really important, it gives students something to do.”

Unfortunately, with the beginning of Homecoming, memories of Homecoming past are bittersweet.

Keagan Fox, a sophomore biological science major, said she misses hanging out with her friends.

“[I miss] being able to hang out close with my friends and take pictures without masks,” Fox said.

LuLu Shimonde, the coronation chairs elector and senior psychology major, said she misses the pep rally and being around people.

“I miss being around people, that’s what I miss,” Shimonde said. “I think that the opportunity to be in a group setting, around people, without wearing mask, that’s something I totally miss. Like I miss the sense of normalcy.”

Despite the bittersweet start to Homecoming, most students agree that they are glad to have events where they can interact and meet other students.

Shimonde said she’s excited that Homecoming is giving students a chance to get involved on campus. “I think it’s giving people that go here something to do, something to look forward to,” Shimonde said, “I think with COVID it’s been really hard to

get stuff planned and get stuff done, and I’ve heard people complain that its really boring on campus now, so I’m excited that we have something people can finally get involved in.”

Alexis Brown, a freshman majoring in communications disorders and sciences major, said she is looking forward to the activities on campus.

“I’m looking forward to all of the activities,” Brown said, “just because its my first year and I’ve heard so many good things.”

Jessica Nantes, a freshman music major, said she’s excited to see what happens during homecoming.

“I’m excited to see what kind of things they have planned,” Nantes said, “considering how things are right now with COVID.”

While many events had to be changed, Olson said she’s just happy campus is still open for the school year and that students can still celebrate homecoming.

“I’m really happy with my staff and it’s been great working with everyone on the different changes,” Olson said. “We’ve had to change everything around basically due to social distancing protocols and everything else, but, honestly, I’m personally just really thankful that we can be on campus and I really glad eastern I made the decision to reopen with the social distancing and masking protocols and everything in place.”

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Elizabeth Wood



2020 Homecoming

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Photos by: Elizabeth Wood



Homecoming Queen Olivia Crank, a senior majoring in math and a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, said she was surprised when she found out she had been elected as Homecoming queen because she's a part of a small music sorority.

Homecoming King Jeremy Billy, a senior kinesiology, sport, and recreation major and member of Pi Kappa Alpha, said he didn't expect to get Homecoming king because he was from a smaller fraternity than the others who had ran.



Eva Weber, a sophomore studio arts major, and Rachel Schell, a sophomore finance major, sign up for a raffle that has a grand prize of a \$125 gift card to the Union Book Store before getting a free cake pop during the homecoming kick-off event, "125th Birthday Bash," the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union.



Jessica Nantes, a freshman music major, grabs a cake pop from David Smith, the assistant director for the Martin Luther King Jr. University Student Union, on Sept. 28 under the overpass at the Martin Luther King Jr. Union. Nantes said, "I'm excited to see what kind of things they have planned considering how things are right now with COVID."



Colette Coley, an undecided freshman, and Alexis Moore-Jones, a freshman majoring in clinical laboratory science, both grab cake pops from David Smith, the assistant director for the Martin Luther King Jr. University Student Union, on Sept. 28 under the overpass at the Martin Luther King Jr. Union. Alexis said she was looking forward to fun events and interacting with other students during Homecoming Week.



Kaitlin Santiago, a sophomore English major and a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma, was chosen as Homecoming princess on Oct. 2. Those elected to be on the court was revealed through several Tik Tok videos that were stitched together.



Homecoming Prince Michael Barth, a sophomore finance major and a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, said he did not expect to get Homecoming prince, until he saw that he was the only candidate for Homecoming prince.



2017 Allison Oates and Carl Winton



1915 Football Team



Blair Hall, first used as a model training school, has been around for 107 years. It was named after Francis G. Blair, the first supervisor of Training School at Eastern, 1899-1906. He won widespread recognition of the work he did in improving public school facilities in Illinois. He held long time service in a state elective office and was first elected to head the state public instruction office in 1906

In 2004, a fire consumed the third floor of the building, and it was closed during its renovation. Blair Hall is now home to several departments and offices, including the sociology, anthropology and criminology department, the Graduate School and the Office of Inclusion and Academic Engagement.

Imani Tapley



Carman Hall was known as the freshman residence hall, with 397 women housed in Carman Hall upon its completion in 1970. The addition of the nine story South Tower building for males was completed in 1971, making Carman the largest residence hall on campus. It is named after Ruth Carman, who taught Latin and German from 1914-1953 and is believed to be the first former student for whom a building is named. Carman closed in the summer of 2013 due to budget cuts and low enrollment.

Jeremy Arzuaga



Greek Court was completed in four phases. The first phase was completed in 1989 and it was known as Greek Row. The chapter houses are two-stories and have two wings allowing two organizations to live in the building. Each wing was complete with a chapter room and kitchen. They can house 36 members. The second phase added two more buildings, and later the third and fourth phase expanded toward the southeast. The final buildings that were added were not as large and meant for smaller chapters

Kate Figlewski



Klehm Hall is a three-story brick and concrete building that was built in 1967. and currently holds the College of Health and Human Services and the School of Technology. It was named after Walter and Lucille Klehm. Walter Klehm served as the first dean of Industrial Arts and Technology. Some unique features about Klehm are The Café, a student-managed restaurant that offers a different lunch menu every week, and a construction

Skylar Fushi

B U I L D I N G S

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Photos from: The Keep



Coleman Hall was named after history teacher Charles H. Coleman, who worked at Eastern for 35 years and wrote a history of the university. The building was constructed 1964 and was first used in the fall of 1965. The addition of a parking lot was in 1989, and in 1989 a walkway connected Coleman Hall with Lumpkin, then a new building.

Initially seven departments had offices and classrooms on three separate floors. Most of the departments are still in Coleman, including history on the second floor, English classes on the third floor and world language on the first. Also in Coleman are ROTC, philosophy and economics, as well as the Writing Center.

Sofia Turek



Doudna Fine Arts Center is one of the newly renovated buildings on campus and is named after EIU's eighth president, Quincy V. Doudna. The original three-story building was constructed in 1959 and made of concrete, brick and precast stone. Doudna originally included a 534-seat theatre, 35 practice rooms, listening studios and teaching classrooms. The building was divided into two wings, one for music and theatre; the other for art and speech. The entire project cost around \$1.25 million.

The renovation of Doudna started in 2001 and work began in 2005. The building was expected to be finished by the fall of 2007, but the building did not open until the fall of 2008. Many classes were relocated during that time to other buildings on campus such as Lawson Hall, McAfee Gymnasium and Buzzard Hall. Art students used a building in West Park Plaza, where Ruler Foods currently resides, and theatre students used at Charleston's Village Theatre, which was also formerly a grocery store. The rededication ceremony for the DFAC took place in October 2008.

The Doudna renovation was designed by a world-renowned architect, Antoine Predock, specifically for the arts. The building spans 269,280-square feet next to the Union and the Life Sciences Building. It is for music, art and theatre classes with many programs available to Eastern students and the community. Within Doudna, multiple spaces are used for performances: the Recital Hall, the Black box theatre, the Dvorak Hall, and the Proscenium Theatre. Doudna also has some interesting features like the Hall of Mirrors, the Red Zone and the Green Room. Outside are the Mellin Steps where students can gather to hang out, study or support each other artistically. The steps are named after two friends of EIU who support the arts and granted part of their estate to the University.

Heather Vosburgh



Lantz Arena, a two-story structure built in 1967, was called the Charles P. Lantz Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building.

Lantz was director of athletics at Eastern for 42 years, from 1911 to 1952. From 1911-35 he coached Eastern teams in football, basketball and baseball.

The building cost \$2.8 million with a portion of the construction costs from revenue bonds paid by student fees because of the recreational facilities it housed. It included a swimming pool.

The second phase, a few years later, included a fieldhouse with an indoor track with a rubberized asphalt floor for \$825,000. A third phase was completed in 1971.

A basketball complex and athletic academic services area with a study area and computers and tutors for the athletes was built in 2006. The building houses the athletic department and the department of kinesiology, sport, and recreation.

Kayla Crockett



Lawson Hall was the second high rise building on campus and built as a mirror image to Andrews Hall when it opened in fall 1967 fall as a women's residence hall housing 480 students. It was dedicated in February 1968 in honor of Elizabeth K. Lawson, dean of women for 27 years, from 1939 to 1966. It is in the South Quad and is one of the four residence halls that make up the South Quad.

Lawson Hall now is a co-ed residence hall that can hold up to 250 residents. It is a single tower that has eight residential floors. The staff of the building consists of the associate resident director, the complex director, and eight resident assistants. Lawson Hall has a pool table in the basement and a TV lounge and vending machines. Lawson Hall also has a community kitchen and laundry facilities on each floor.

Danny Nolasco

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Photos from: The Keep

B U I L D I N G S



The Ninth Street Hall is a two-story structure with a basement and an addition on the corner of Ninth and Roosevelt. In the early 1980s, it housed up to 52 women of Kappa Delta sorority. Then it became a residence hall for students from around the world, called the International House. For many years it had the offices of academic and disability services, student success, testing and evaluation services. Starting this year it will be used for the new nursing department.

Wesley Adrien



O'Brien Field, the 1970 stadium, with seating for 7,600, included an outdoor, eight-lane, all-weather track, office space, equipment storage facilities, training and teams' rooms and a press box at a cost of \$1.2 million.

It has weight-lifting room with dead weights and mechanical weights, and an elevator from the ground level to press box at top of stadium seating.

It was named for Maynard "Pat" O'Brien, professor of physical education and coach at Eastern from 1946 to 1974 and coach of football, track and cross country and wrestling. He was also one of the 10 charter members at EIU Hall of Fame. It was originally called Lincoln Field. This stadium consists of an outdoor track and football field.

The O'Brien field included a \$2 million renovation project in 1999. The stadium now has 10,000 seats with Hellas Matrix Turf, installed in 2012.

Armoni King



The Physical Science Building: the building itself and the plant services section. The Physical Science Building is a 46,784 square foot four-story building with a basement made of concrete and brick and includes an elevator, the first on the campus. It originally housed the botany, chemistry, geography, hygiene, physics and zoology. It currently houses the chemistry, physics, geology and geography, and psychology departments.

Construction began in 1937. The head of the geography department, Annie Weller, broke ceremonial ground on May 31, 1937. The total cost was \$376,125. A 21,977 square foot addition was added on in 1973, costing \$3.34 million.

A lecture hall was added to the building, named after Harris E. Phipps, professor and department head of chemistry, from 1931 to 1967. The plant service building is a 15,741 square foot one-story building added in 1965, costing \$255,415. An update to the plant service building was constructed in 1974, adding an additional 5,074 square feet for storage and janitorial services.

Destiny Mitchell



Tarble Arts Center is named after Newton Tarble, who attended Eastern from 1905 to 1909. He was an industrialist, a philanthropist and the co-founder of Snap-on Tools Corporation. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1973.

The Tarble Art Center was built in 1982 after Newton and his wife, Louise, gave \$1 million toward the building's construction. Tarble had three goals for this building to showcase art done by students and faculty: to bring art from outside Eastern, and to have arts be created, and exhibited in schools and libraries.

The building is a cultural resource center, housing art exhibits, a permanent collection of art, and facilities for study, tours and meetings. It also had a gift shop.

After Tarble died in 1976, his wife continued to support the Tarble Art Center with \$2 million in 2000 to help expand the building. Tarble Arts Center was also renovated in 2017.

Karyne Allen



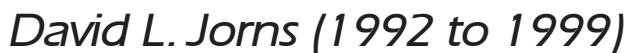
Fite, Eastern's fourth president, saw student enrollment rise from 8,214 to 9,252, an increase of 12.6 percent. Additions were built for many existing buildings, including Lantz, the Rec, Doudna, the Physical Science Building and the Union. Also, houses were purchased on Ninth Street to use as art studios. Fite oversaw the change from academic quarters to semesters, closing the lab school and 24-hour visiting rights to the dorms. You could see Fite driving on his campus in his 1931 Model A Ford and hosting Vice President Gerald Ford on campus in 1974.



He died in 2008 at the age of 63.



One controversy Rives experienced was the building of Greek Court. At the time EIU was planning to build the set of houses designated to Greek Life but on campus. Several members of Greek life said they would not be interested in moving their chapter houses onto campus. A survey reported by The Daily Eastern News in 1988 found that out of 60 individuals in Greek life, only seven favored the creation of Greek Court.



He moved to Oakland, Illinois, upon retirement. In 2009, his play, "Three-Fifths of a Man," was written for the "Trial and Tribulations," event commemorating the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth and the slave trial in 1847 when Lincoln defended a slave owner, Robert Matson, who was trying to keep people enslaved. Matson owned property and slaves in Kentucky, but also brought slaves to his farm in Illinois, where slavery was illegal.



Carol D. Surles (1999 to 2001)

Carol D. Surles was recognized for being both the first African American, as well as Eastern’s first female president. She has a Ph.D. in education from the University of Michigan.

Carol Surles previously held jobs at Texas Women’s University, Jackson State University the University of Michigan–Flint, California State University-Hayward and the University of Central Florida.

Surles left Eastern in July 2001 to seek further treatment for breast cancer. A racial discrimination lawsuit filed against her during her tenure was dropped in November of 2002.



Louis V. Hencken (2001 to 2007)

Louis V. Hencken was Eastern’s tenth president. Many years before his presidency, Hencken started as a dishwasher in Thomas Hall. He graduated from Eastern in August 1967 with a master’s degree in counseling and student development, and soon after he started working as a graduate assistant. He rose through the administrative ranks, going from Douglas Hall counselor in 1967 to Eastern president in 2001. He actually had about 10 positions at Eastern before becoming president, many involving student affairs and housing, and was named interim president before being named president.

When he became president, he earned praise for navigating Eastern through particularly bad times. At the time, Eastern was going through a budget crunch, the aftermath of 9/11, and a decrease in enrollment. Hencken helped by raising millions of dollars in fundraising and increasing enrollment numbers. Eastern even welcomed the two biggest freshman classes in university history, with the school having a total enrollment of about 12,000 his final year as president. Eastern also saw the completion of major capital development projects, such as renovations to Booth Library, the construction of a new Human Services building, and more.

In 2006, Hencken announced that he would retire in a year’s time. Hencken continued being a part of Eastern long after his retirement, giving campus tours and teaching classes as a professor. In total, Hencken served Eastern for more than 40 years, proving his passion and commitment to Eastern.



ElU President William L. Perry

William L. Perry (2007 to 2015)

William L. Perry had a long career in education before serving as Eastern’s 10th president, beginning his career at Texas A&M University in 1971. For the next 36 years, Perry served in multiple different positions there, including as the vice provost in 2003.

Perry’s biggest accomplishment at Eastern was arguably the Renewable Energy Center, established in 2010. The center not only made EIU a more environmentally friendly campus but also created opportunities for students, from researching renewable energy to participating in the community through public service opportunities.

Perry also improved the environment on campus, as he promoted research on biomass gasifiers.



David M. Glassman (2017 to present)

David M. Glassman, 12th president, came to Eastern from Bradley University with a background in anthropology, having taught at Texas State University and at the University of Southern Indiana, while also serving as a dean there.

During Glassman’s time at Eastern he has had to deal with the state’s two-year budget impasse from 2015 to 2017, which crippled higher education at state schools in the state, and the international COVID-19 pandemic.

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Bios by: Kyara Morales-Rodriguez and Lucas Grindley; Photos from: The Keep

The Greenwood School

The Greenwood School, moved to Eastern Illinois University in 1975, is a small school about the size of two living rooms side by side, seeming more spacious inside than out.

The faded white paint chipping slowly off the building and the board hanging loose on the front are testaments to the old age of the building, but somehow add to the charm of the building.

Above the schoolhouse is a little school bell tower, which can still be rung and makes a deep pleasant chime when done.

The Greenwood School, residing at 800 Hayes Avenue, is a tribute to the history of education in America. This one room schoolhouse built in 1895, represents the typical schoolhouse found across America during this time.

This was due to an ordinance passed that each township should have a school to provide children all over the country with an education. This is where the one room schoolhouse became an important part of education, which the Greenwood School is an example of.

The inside of the schoolhouse represents the patriotism and values of education that were prevalent when children were learning in this atmosphere. The framed photographs of Washington, Lincoln, McKinley, and Garfield show the

respect and reverence for our past leaders.

A large American flag stands close to the blackboard weathered from the years. The books stacking the matching green metal shelves toward the back of the room are filled with a wide variety of subjects including orthography, arithmetic, geography, botany, human body, language through nature, optics, and several others; certainly, providing enough subjects to pique the interests of many students with differing tastes.

A colorful and detailed map illustrates several geographical landmarks that laid out the many land formations for students to learn.

The desks are set up in rows and look tiny for people to fit into, and the interior has large windows framed by wooden borders that look out towards the playground next to the Greenwood School, painting the picture of children sitting in the school listening and learning and then having recess right next door.

The Greenwood Museum represents the beginning of education for students all over the country and transports a viewer back to a simpler time.

For more information on this museum or to see it for yourself please contact the Coles County Historical Society at 217-345-2934.

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Skylar Fushi; Photo by: Bailey Scoggins

Buzzard Museum

Nestled in a small corner in Buzzard Hall, it's easy to walk past Eastern's museum for the Normal Laboratory School.

Someone casually passing by would mistake the museum for any other broom closet or classroom, but if one looked closer, they would notice the placard next to the door: "Buzzard Laboratory Museum."

Upon first walking in, I wasn't too impressed: the room was smaller than most of the classrooms in Buzzard and there were only a few things on display. I could tell it hasn't gotten too many visitors recently, based on the thin layer of dust on a few of the displays as well as the plentiful pamphlets and "rate your experience" sheets on display next to the door.

The school was first opened in 1895, where professors and student teachers work in teams of three or more. The student teachers were then able to make and implement courses for the children who learned at the Normal Laboratory School.

While the museum was small and quaint, it held mementos and small trinkets that made me pause to look at each item. One of the first things that caught my attention was an attendance book right next to the pamphlets. The entries were written with neat penmanship and dated back to 1958.

Next to it, there was a small booklet detailing the Normal Laboratory School's students, staff, courses, and mission statement. As I skimmed through the booklet, I found the mission statement an admirable one: "The objective of a State Normal School is not to expand the earning power of one class of persons at the public charge. It is to give a culture and learning dedicated in a special way to the general welfare. It exists primarily not for the benefit of the students but for the benefit of the whole people."

As I walked around the room, small quotes, labeled as "memories," drew my gaze to them.

As I read each one, it felt as if there was an individualized touch to the museum, something that larger museums could not replicate even if they tried. A few quotes were from students, one was from Mark Carey about the education at the Lab School: "We were never pressed through a cookie cutter process and then left with the hop for the best outcome."

As I read each one, I could not help but wonder how Eastern had collected the quotes. Perhaps it was from the Normal Laboratory School's Alumni, who had fondly recalled their time going to the school.

The museum held personal items, like Blanche Moody's Normal Laboratory's yearbook, which was the last yearbook the school had before closing in 1942. It felt as if I was glimpsing into Blanche's personal life as I read a few notes people left in the book when they signed it. A few wished Blanche a good summer while teachers had wished her luck in her future endeavors.

The back of the room had a teacher's desk sitting in front a chalk board, a bell and a few books sat neatly atop it. Across from the teacher's desk was a small wooden student's desk that had an old box of Crayola crayons and an eraser on top.

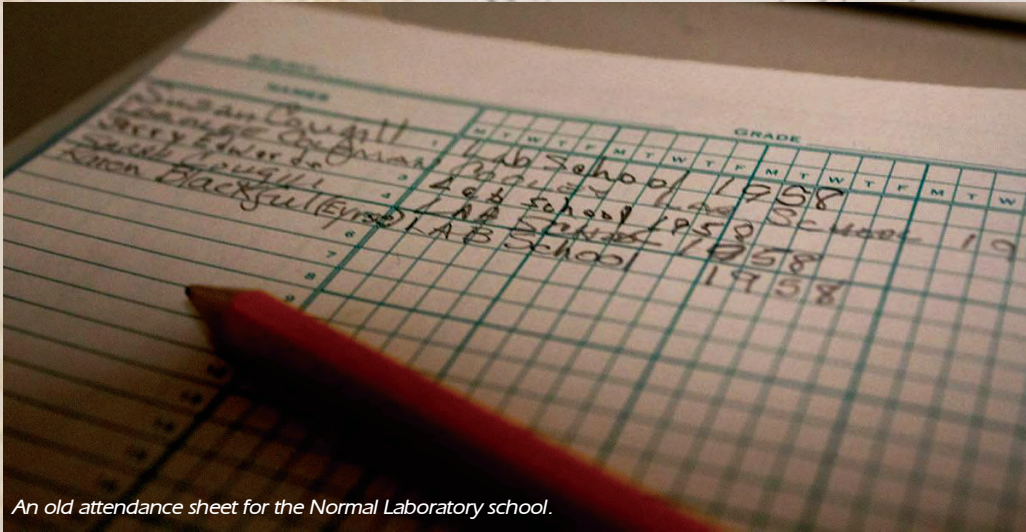
One object in the back caught my eye almost immediately. It was a small book with a blue and pink cover and hands on the front. The placard in the display told me that Brian Settle made the cover and pages of his prayer book as part of an art project. Below it there was copies of the pages inside the book, which had bold red designs of grapes and their leafy vines stamped onto the pages. Despite its boldness, it held a delicacy to it.

As I left the small room, I found myself reflecting on the memories displayed on the walls and wondered if Buzzard Hall lives up to its legacy.

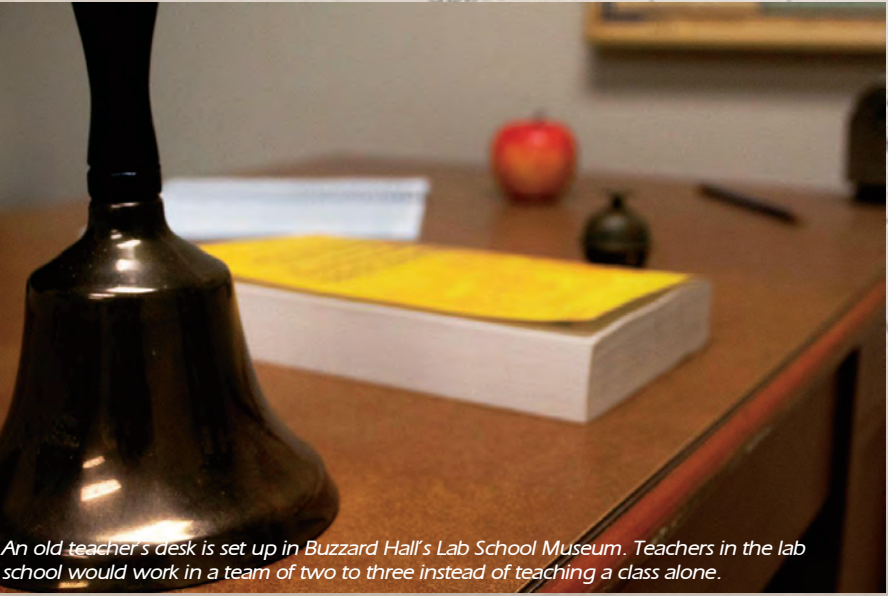
Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story and photos by Elizabeth Wood



A prayer book, made by Brian Settle, lays in a display case in the back of the room. The book was made for an art project. Below it was copies of the pages inside the book, which had bold red designs of grapes and their leafy vines stamped onto the pages.



An old attendance sheet for the Normal Laboratory school.



An old teacher's desk is set up in Buzzard Hall's Lab School Museum. Teachers in the lab school would work in a team of two to three instead of teaching a class alone.

me had some
me done a lot
forget you
me. I guess
the competition (Rich)
at to a lot of
the way you stick
ing
lots of success
to a well gal.
Keep sweet
Cecanova
Warren Freeland

Jake
to one of the
best girls in
and one
t always gave
me trouble when
you came into
the campus. But
really someday
hope you announce
to something, I
doubt it.
John
Stabler
Little Camp



News 2020-2021

August

24 - The fall 2020 semester starts!

September

7 - The undergraduate student population is 4,741 students, with 1,261 freshmen, 902 sophomores, 1,020 juniors and 1,508 seniors enrolled at Eastern. There are 50 post-baccalaureate undergraduate students.

18 - The EIU Wind Symphony and Concert Band performed the music of George Gershwin and Aaron Copland for a small crowd in the Library Quad and for about 100 livestream viewers.

23 - Eighteen employers attended a virtual job fair for accounting majors, hosted by Career Services.

October

27 - Political professor Kevin Anderson discussed the electoral college, the popular vote and other voting issues as part of an International Students & Scholar Zoom presentation.

28 - It was announced in the 2020 Celebration of Scholarship, Creativity and Engagement that Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, a professor in counseling and higher education, was named the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award.

December

4 - The English department’s annual literary festival, Lions in Winter, was held virtually this year, with an online reading and craft talk by author Brandon Hobson of New Mexico State University.

11 - Last day of class, fall 2020.

January

- 11** - Spring semester starts.
- 26** - Anna Fishbein and Sophie Cieslicki, college student affairs master’s degree students, led a virtual discussion of “I Am Not Your Negro,” a film about civil rights leaders Malcolm X, Medgar Evers and Martin Luther King Jr. The event was part of series sponsored by the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism office.
- 28** - The history department faculty wrote a letter to the editor of The Daily Eastern News urging the university to rename Douglas Hall. The letter is part of an ongoing discussion about renaming the building, led by a campuswide committee made up mostly of faculty and staff. One student, Noor Khamisani, represents the student senate.
- 30** - Joy Harjo, the U.S. Poet Laureate, read from her book, “An American Sunrise,” as part of Booth Library’s Big Read Program. The reading was presented virtually.

February

- 4** - Joan Kane, a poet of Inupiaq descent, was the featured speaker at the English department’s annual Lions in Winter Festival, this year held virtually.

March

- 15** - Anthropology professor Don Holly is the winner of the 2021 Distinguished Faculty Award, presented each spring to a faculty member for teaching, research and service. The committee members who selected Holly were Teshome Abebe, Todd Bruns, Nicole Hugo and Nichole Mulvey. Last year’s winner was Rebecca Tadlock-Marlow, as associate professor in counseling and higher education.
- 16** - In a virtual presentation, Amy Davis, an assistant professor in the department of teaching, learning, told of being raised in a multicultural family. The talk was sponsored by the Academy of Lifelong Learning.
- 21** - Jeremiah Boyd Johnson, a junior political science major, was a quarterfinalist in impromptu speaking and a semifinalist in poetry performance at the 2021 National Speech Championship, this year held virtually. Marguerite McHale, a junior economics and political science major, presented in the Novice Exhibition finals in impromptu speaking and dramatic performance. Their coach, Sara Gronstal, was honored with a National Service Award for her work promoting student wellness.
- 25-April 1** - The Central Illinois Feminist Film Festival (<https://cifff.blogspot.com>) continues under the leadership of English professors Robin Murray and Donna Binns. Murray will be retiring at the end of the year. The festival is part of Women’s History Month.
- 26** - Catherine Polydore, assistant dean of the Honors College, and Ozlem Ersin, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, were the main speakers at the Womxn Up Conference, sponsored by the Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism.

April

- 9** - Esperanza Murillo, a senior in health administration, won Booth Library’s 11th annual Edible Book Festival with her creation based on the book, “The Rainbow Fish.” The contest and voting were held virtually to celebrate National Library Week April 4-10.
- 18** - The Jazz Lab Band held three pop-up concerts: noon at Lake Charleston Pavilion, 1 p.m. at Sister City Park and 2 p.m. at Morton Park.
- 25** - The EIU Wind Symphony live-streamed its final concert of the year at 4 p.m.

Unconventional Classrooms



Kelly Prete, a junior psychology major, sketches trees beside the Tarble Arts Center during her drawing class. Prete said, "it's [having class outside] pretty nice, I really enjoy the sunlight. I know that around this time of year that a lot of people stay inside because it's cold and not really get any sunlight, but being outside, first of all, it's social distancing interaction because, you know, COVID is a thing, but you're also outside and it's really good for you."



Holly Dust, a human physiology professor, teaches class in the MLK Jr Union while recording her lectures for students quarantining. Dust explains, "It is kind of hard to juggle new technology and to accommodate students in and out of the class."

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Photos by: Elizabeth Wood and Sofia Turek



Mike Shuetz, a drawing professor, gives pointers to Mason Myers, a freshman graphic design major, on his landscape drawing of the trees outside of the Tarble Arts Center. Shuetz said that the class meets the quota for the classroom size inside, so he decided to do something a little different and have class outside when it is possible.



Eby Daniels, a freshman art major, and Tessa Hemrich, a freshman art education major, draw the landscape outside the Tarble Arts Center.



Ryan Burge, a political science professor, teaches his presidency class in Pemberton Hall. His class was taught hybrid, half online half in person at Coleman Hall, but due to low attendance, he decided to go to Pemberton, which would have enough space to socially distance his 30 person class. Burge said he was lucky to get a spot in Pemberton because many of the alternative spaces on campus were taken.



Teaching in COVID-19

When COVID-19 first introduced mass remote learning, many were glad to see schools open in the fall. As schools opened, new classrooms popped up in areas that many wouldn't have thought of like gyms or in Pemberton Hall's common room.

Ryan Burge, a political science professor, taught a socially distanced in-person class, which he had set up a stream on D2L for quarantined students to attend virtually. He said one challenge to online or hybrid teaching is that some students don't show up.

"Some students just drop off the map," Burge said. "Usually, they're around more and you can see them because they're in class every week and when they stop coming you can kind of track that. Now, because we are online, they could be watching online every time and I wouldn't know because I don't really look at that.

"There's about a third of this class that has gone MIA, like they're completely gone, and I don't know if it's because of COVID or if they're trying to do the bare minimum to get through the class or if they needed help."

Burge added it has been hard to tell if a student needs help in the class online.

"You have less opportunities to see students, who are distressed, and help them," Burge said. "It seems like for a certain type of student, who may have more work or family obligations, are more vulnerable in times like this and we [professors] don't know that. Students don't really share that, which I totally understand, but I need you to help me understand your situation, so that way I can understand how to respond to you.

"I think it's those kinds of students that are struggling, and it's those students who suffer in silence."

Christopher Gadomski, a theater arts professor, said some classes, like his stage craft or props class, that are better taught in person.

"When you're teaching a hands-on course that stresses creativity and actually building or painting or doing those things, that's where it gets hard," Gadomski said. "Especially when you combine it with technology and people who have limited access to it or limited understanding of it, and not getting the materials properly."

Gadomski taught his props and stage craft class in a hybrid format, where he met with his students twice a week and had the third-class day online for tests or discussion posts. Portions of the class were taught online.

"I'm teaching Photoshop, and that's something my students can do online and something I can teach remotely. We just got put into quarantine today because my youngest son was tested positive," Gadomski said, "so, fortunately, we are at a point where I can teach that remotely and do it online, but once that passes and we're out of quarantine, we'll be going right back in-person doing molding and casting, and that's not something I can do online without them witnessing it themselves."

While Burge taught an in-person class , he also had a

hybrid class for the first half of the semester. He switched from hybrid to in-person due to attendance issues within the different sections of the class.

"Honestly, one of my classes was good, the discussion was good I had nine or 10 students and it was lively and fun," Burge said. "Then, the other section only had five students in it that didn't really want to talk so it was 75 minutes of me just filibustering and that took all the fun out of teaching."

He added that he would have held his class in-person sooner but the common room in Pemberton Hall didn't open until later on, and all the other spaces on campus were taken.

With classes moving online, technical difficulties followed.

Gadomski said he kept having troubles getting the cameras on Zoom or D2L Collaborate Ultra to work as well as finding a streaming platform to teach on.

"I tried Zoom at first, but Zoon wasn't giving me a professional Zoom, so I couldn't get that unlimited time span," Gadomski said. "When you're teaching a two hour or two-and-a-half-hour course you need more than 50 minutes to an hour, so I'd set up several. Then, I found out D2L had a program called collaborate, so I tried that, but it didn't work nearly as well as Zoom did."

Burge said his biggest issue was remembering to turn on the mic at the beginning of class. He said he'd have to turn it on, off, then on again for the audio.

"One day I just forgot totally [to turn the mic back on] there was no audio and that was scary," Burge said.

With courses changing to a distanced class or an online class, both professors said they missed interacting with the students.

Burge said he likes walking around the classroom during his le

"I like to have more one-on-one conversations," Burge said, "which those aren't possible now because I can't have them in my office really. Which has been tough because I have students who like to come in to talk about relationship problems or mental health issues and they want some privacy, but it's also like, 'Oh God, we have to close the door,' but then it's like, 'Oh no, it would be an office with a closed door.'"

Gadomski said he missed having conversations with his students and being able to interact with them in the classroom. He added that hybrid and online classes had something missing.

"There's something lacking this year that there used to be present when you were teaching in person," he said.

Story, photo, and page design by Elizabeth Wood



Gregory Galperin

Gregory Galperin's office is tucked away like a secret, down the hallway from the space that he usually teaches on the third floor of Old Main. His black boards are covered with geometric shapes: spheres, rectangular prisms and triangular prisms. Below these shapes were rows and rows of random numbers. He enters the classroom, fumbling with his mask, missing his right ear until he finally was able to pin it back.

Math professor Gregory Galperin is a tall man, whose voice starts at his knees and bellows up through his chest. He speaks with a Russian accent, as he was born in the country of Georgia. His hair is as white as the snow atop Mount Elbrus near the Georgian border, and it slightly curls around his forehead. When the weather is warm, he wears khaki shorts with a dress shirt, with barely knee-high white socks paired with Birkenstocks—every single time. He is gung-ho as he explains mathematical equations.

His love of teaching and math as a whole are his passions, passions that sparked when he was a young child in Tbilisi.

"I started learning mathematics in the fifth grade," he says. "After that, I got a very good book about mathematics, and I realized that it is a kind of art... it's kind of my life."

Most students would just expose themselves to math in the usual sense when they're in school and when they're doing homework. Young Gregory took his love for math way beyond his textbook and homework practice problems. He began participating in Mathematical Olympiads.

"At the time, it was the first national Olympiad among the Soviet Union. I passed the first round, second round, third round, fourth round...it was a very, very difficult Olympiad."

There were five problems that he and the other competitors had to complete in five hours; with that being said, you can only imagine how arduous these problems must have been. After going through the trials and tribulations that the Olympiad put Galperin through, he realized the talent and ability that he bestowed. He says that the knack for solving equations would just come to him; it's indescribable.

He soon found out that there was a special entrance exam being offered at a prestigious mathematical school in Moscow called the Kolmogorov Math School, and he immediately jumped at the opportunity. He was invited to the institution by the mathematician and professor himself, Andrei Nikolaevich Kolmogorov, who also helped arrange the school's existence.

"I had to take a math exam and a physics exam, and then after that, there was an oral exam. I didn't get a chance to take the written exam because I was living in Georgia, but nevertheless, I was still accepted."

Galperin smiled up at the ceiling as he recalled the problems that he had to solve on the exam; problems, he says, he remembers vividly. That's a huge accomplishment; out of all the students who tried to get inside the academy, he was one of the 200 who made it. This was one of the first schools of its time.

"We were busy all the time, yes, but we learned so much. At the end of our education there, we knew about as much as a teacher in the United States."

The next stop on his journey was Moscow University.

"My sophomore year, I realized I had to be a professor of mathematics."

When he was in high school, he would teach his peers the material free of charge; that was the catalyst right there. He owes a lot of his career to the professors he connected with at Moscow University, some with whom he still has contact. After following his teachers' academic journals, he has published many of his own, giving back to the math community.

"I have some published in pure mathematics and some in educational mathematics." He has over 100 journals listed underneath his name as well as submitting problems to the contest that he participated in as a child and its United States' equivalent.

He then leapt up from his seat and waltzed to the chalkboard to the left of him. He grabbed a piece of chalk and began demonstrating one of the problems he has submitted. Thousands of problems are entered, but only six are selected, and many of Galperin's problems have been chosen. He once completed a month-long problem in an hour.

He next made his way to Bielefeld, Germany, to become a Humboldt Fellow in Mathematics. The fellowship was named after the poly mathematician Alexander von Humboldt, another role model for Galperin. He spent two years there, until eventually it was time to send out applications once again for employment. Galperin says he left no stone unturned sending out his resumes. At the time, finding a math professor job was almost impossible.

He began talking about a question that he concocted during his tutor sessions in high school. He draws a bottle on the same chalkboard underneath the previous problem he tried to demonstrate. He had devised this problem in his youth. As he measured the circumference of the bottom of the bottle, he told how to find the circumference of the top: "So first, you calculate this volume. Calculating it the normal way is almost impossible to do, so you turn the bottle upside down."

If he weren't a math professor?

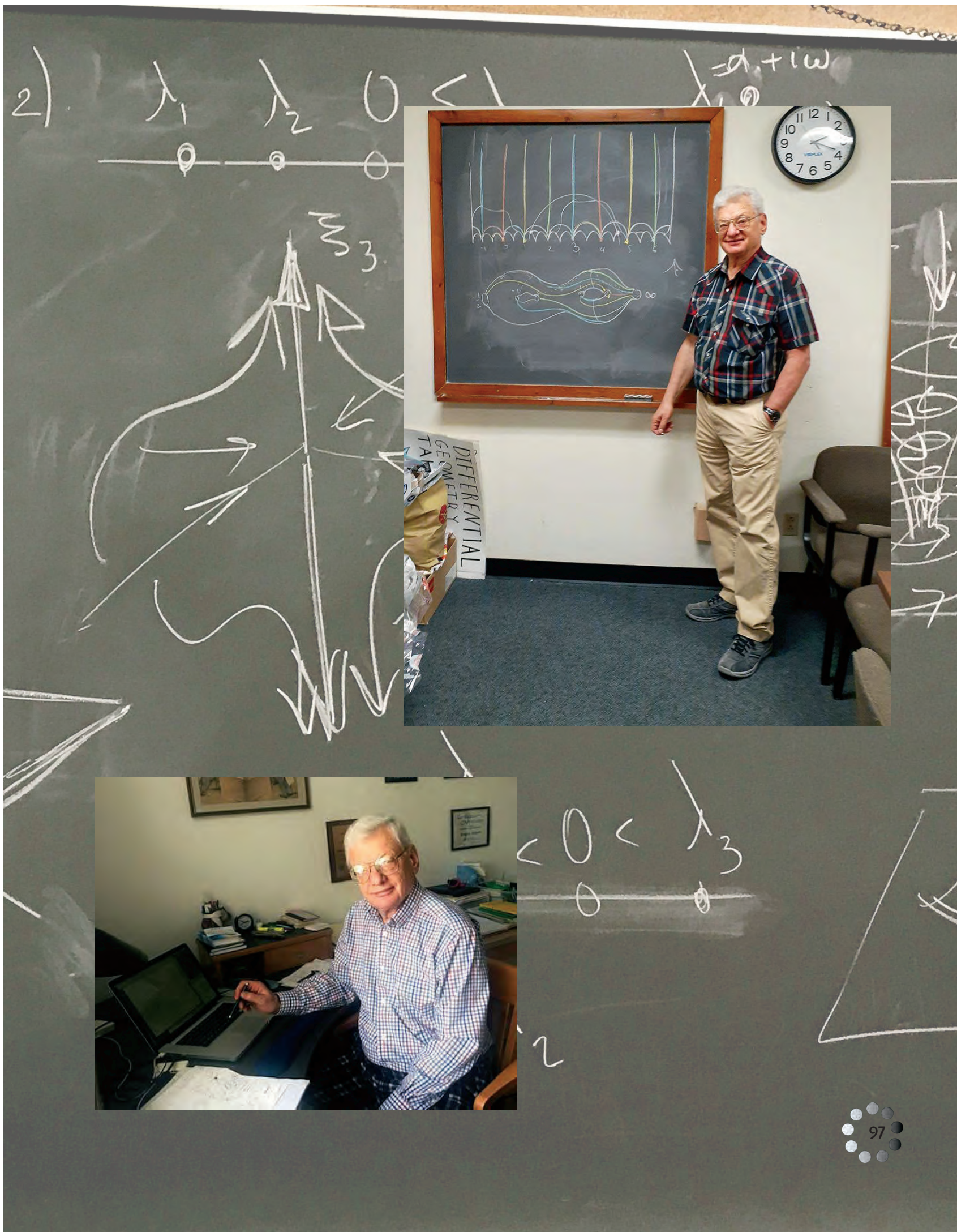
"I would probably be...what do you call it...the drawing. I would be doing drawing." In his youth, he had a book of illustrations by Walt Disney, and he would spend hours redrawing each sketch.

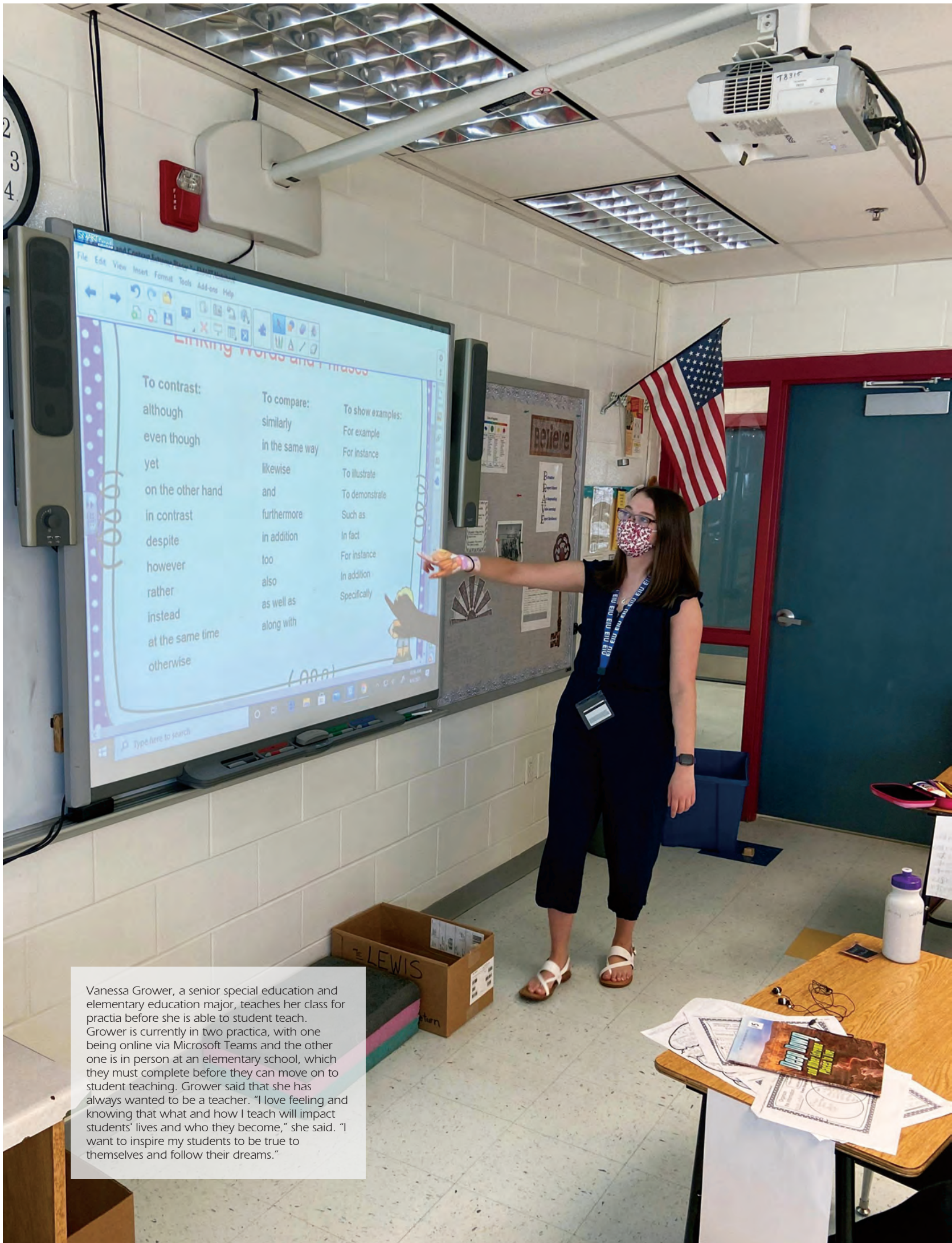
"What do you do in your spare time? Do you still draw?"

"Not much anymore. I usually like to read about French history, and I know a lot about Russian history."

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Dara McGee; Photos were submitted

Walsworth





Walsworth

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Mask or Pass?



Photo by: Ashanti Thomas

"Masks have become another article of clothing that no longer bothers me. COVID has been a weird time, but now just seems like more of a lifestyle change that is annoying; nonetheless, is a time of change, and I feel there is something we can all learn from COVID which is patience and adaptation to unwanted change." Trishawn Jenkins-Truitt, a junior human services major, explains her thoughts on adapting to a new COVID lifestyle.



Photo by: Ashanti Thomas

"I think COVID is still very much a threat and that wearing masks is really important. I'm really used to it, and, at this point, it feels wrong not to wear a mask when leaving the house. Grabbing my mask has become a habit, and I don't go anywhere without it." Kenna Bishop, a freshman art education major, tells their thoughts on adjusting to wearing masks everyday.



Photo by: Ashanti Thomas

"I think wearing masks outside is kind of useless because germs aren't going to spread that far outside, but wearing them inside I can understand. Other than that, I think the mask policy is a bit overbearing with having to wear them at all times. Ameer Kellogg, a freshman who plans to major in Pre-Med, on having to constantly wear masks.



Photo by: Elizabeth Wood

"You want to go home, you want to be safe, you want to make sure your family is safe," Austin said, "especially if you live on campus because you're interacting with different people so you don't want to go home and continue to spread this. Me as a grandmother, I have to be extra careful, so that's why this is my second time [getting tested], The first time was good, hope and pray, fingers crossed and everything that I'm good this time so I can be comfortable knowing that I'm not going to continue to spread this virus. [...] Like Biden said, you can look across the table and see someone is not there, somebody is not there, don't let that person be you or a loved one of yours. Let's try to fight this virus together and hope next year we can see another and touch each other, hug and all that good stuff—that I would love, I miss the hugs." Toby Austin, a senior majoring in family service and consumer sciences, on getting tested for COVID-19 before Thanksgiving break.



Photo by Elizabeth Wood

"At this point I wish the corona virus was over with but I do think the masks protect us because a lot of us do wear it and are required on campus. I think the masks are good, they're something that protects us all."
Mia Melendez, a junior marketing major, on wearing masks a year into the pandemic.



Photo by: Ashanti Thomas

"I actually don't mind wearing masks around campus and to classes. I consider myself a really social person, and I think that taking steps such as washing our hands and wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 so that we can continue to hang out with loved ones is really great. School for the most part is okay, but remote learning has definitely taken a toll on my work and motivation. But, I also know that due to the pandemic, students just have to find a way around that motivation block."
Aiyanna Ramsey, a freshman biology major, on wearing masks and adjusting to the pandemic.



Photo by Bryce Herrin

"I don't exactly like them, but I understand the precautions and want to keep others safe."
Jacob Reeks, junior accounting major, on wearing masks.



Photo by Bryce Herrin

"I find masks uncomfortable."
Morgan Tapley, Junior accounting major, on wearing masks.

Beth Gillespie:

Throughout complicated and scary, challenging times, Beth Gillespie, director for Civic Engagement and Volunteerism, keeps planning charity events and making sure students want to be involved.

"Trying to have those spaces where it is safe for everyone to come together and to just think a little differently or deeper about things that are impacting all of us," Gillespie said.

She earned a bachelor's in English from Michigan State University and a master's in human resources administration.

"I have had three different main sections of my career so far. I spent 10 years working for human resources and health care, so I hired and fired people," Gillespie said.

Gillespie also is one of the founders of the local Girls on the Run Council, an after-school program for elementary students that used to end with a 5K fun in November.

"I did that for a really long time, which was super impactful and changed my life. And I think positively impacted the community," Gillespie said.

Beth Gillespie's husband, Michael Gillespie, is an Eastern sociology professor.



Beth Gillespie

"She and I are polar opposites when it comes to do most anything," Michael Gillespie said. "She is linear and organized and I am cerebral and pensive. She makes lists, and I mediate.

"I will say this, since we both have roles on campus – I am a professor, she runs CEVO – we do collaborate on projects such as Hunger Action Month, the food pantries, and others," he added.

"However, she has taken them (her projects) and run with them here at EIU. In the same vein, she has found many other things that have really sparked in her the desire to do more and inspire others – such as her Womxn Up conference, get-out the vote efforts, the Fireside chats, the Black Lives Matter and leadership to get the EIU Reads organized to unpack the book 'White Fragility,' and the list goes on.

"These examples are only from this past year," he said.

One of Beth Gillespie's projects that she is proud of is having "The Womxn Up Conference," which was supposed to be held in March, but got postponed due to

Inspiring involvement

the pandemic.

"The Womxn Up Conference" was intended to bring all womxn together and get engaged about the issues that we face today.

"The Womxn Up Conference" is my biggest accomplishment so far because I have been thinking of doing something like this for a really long time and I am so proud of us for doing that," Beth Gillespie said.

"I am also really proud of the work from the Civic Engagement Programs that has come out of my office," she said. "I think the whole college experience is about asking questions and being critical with information and finding out what matters to you.

"So, to be able to play a small role in that with some pretty important topics, it has been very, very cool this year."

Michael Gillespie says one of his wife's best qualities are that when she is passionate about something, she is passionate about it.

"If you dig deeper into what she has done and what she has brought to Eastern, you are going to see a resume full of opportunities created for other to find their joy and passion, and a means to give back to the community. She inspires. That is her. In a word, she inspires," Michael Gillespie said.

With guidelines changing and new practices being made, Beth Gillespie is always working with her team to find ways to keep students involved and to continue volunteering and helping the

community.

When you have to say, everything we have done is off the table and what is this going to be like forward?" she said.

"It is a pretty cool place to be in and have a good attitude about it," Gillespie said.

Gillespie is working remotely two days a week and on campus every MWF. Gillespie says she and the CEVO have had to get really creative with how they are doing things this year with COVID changes.

Normally, the CEVO has 70 nonprofit partners across the county that are asking for help, and right now they can't do that because it is not safe.

"Honestly, this time COVID, has been really hard and scary for a lot of people, my family included. But having to figure out how to do everything completely different, that is me," Gillespie said.

"You know when things are different and there is a new challenge in front of me, that is something that really drives me," she said. "I like to try different things. I have high expectations and standards set for myself. So, I am willing to put all the work in to meet those expectations."

Gillespie added that it's OK to explore career options in order to find something that you love to do.

"I guess the moral of this is, that you do not have to figure out what you want to do for your entire career, it is OK to gain new skills, and then be ready for a new challenge, and it is totally fine if you find something that you love and want to do that, if that is not your plan then that is OK," she said.



Tania Ward



Gregory Aydt



Jennifer Reed

Academic Advising moves to McAfee, goes virtual

Eastern's new nursing program has around 25 students admitted to the program. The new program has caused freshmen academic advising to move to McAfee Gym the day before Thanksgiving in 2019.

Jennifer Reed, 25 years with academic advising, has sentimental memories with student and colleagues in Ninth Street Hall. Reed said she believes that the old location was more welcoming and brighter with their many windows.

"It is a less desirable location being in the basement of a gym," Reed said, "and not the most welcoming, bright, and vibrant space as Ninth Street Hall, as well as old and outdated and in need of updates and upgrades all around."

She has been working remotely due to COVID-19, so she has not been able to adjust fully to the new location.

Academic advising is now centrally located on campus, but with COVID provisions most appointments be held over Zoom.

Only time will tell what students think of the new location.

Tania Ward, a second-year adviser, similarly thinks that Ninth Street Hall held memories as well as a close-knit community. Ward kept an optimistic view when considering the new location and thought that the move may not be so bad.

"It was definitely an adjustment," Ward said, "but life is always changing, and we had help with the move."

There was no option other than to move to make room for the nursing program.

The advisers and other services in Ninth Street Hall had to have their belongings moved out by early May 2020.

Ward said that McAfee has a different community feel than Ninth Street Hall.

All the advisers were on the same level and were easy to navigate, but the distance between them was the biggest challenge of the old location.

Although academic advising has a new location, COVID has given them more problems to adjust to. With COVID-19 provisions moving many in-person events to online, Reed found that to be one of the difficult adjustments alongside the move.

"COVID complicated things," Reed said, "so we were all thrown into figuring out virtual orientation and virtual advising."

Story by Kali Bolton;
Photos by Ashanti Thomas;
Page design by Elizabeth Wood



The Seagull

CAST

Chelsea Claussen
Maya Hammond
Haylie Denzer
Max Zumpano
McKenzie Deremiah Arron Whitt

CREW

Stage Manager - Katie Lister
Assistant Stage Manager - Estela Guzman
Dramaturg- Chris Wixson
Scene Designer - Krystal Kennel
Light Designer - Nick Shaw
Prop Master - Christopher Gadomski
Technical Director - Christopher Gadomski
Master Electrician - Kyle Wilder
Light Board Operator - Nick Shaw & Kyle Wilder
Sound Board Operator - Kevin Di Bella
Camera Operators - Raje Hudson-Barnes, Stevie McDunn, Kylan Cole, Elijah Snyder
Video Editors - Elijah Snyder, Kylan Cole, Nick Shaw
Stage Crew - Serenity Gause, Kyle Walker, Estela Guzman, Anakin Weston
Scenic Construction - Katie Lister, Lucy Hill, Estela Guzman, Kyle Wilder, Trent Niemann, Austin Corely, Tasima Allen, Merri Bork, Chelsea Claussen, Riley Cutright, Max Deremiah, Rachel Dunbar, Mario Escamilla, Resa Fuller, Serenity Gause, Ted Huttner, Alex Mann, Stevie McDunn, Joshua Monier, Raven Moore, Evan Raye, Joshua Rocha, Elijah Snyder
Electricians - Kyle Wilder, Trent Nieman
Prop Artisans - Estela Guzman, Lucy Hill, Katie Lister
Charge Painter - Christopher Gadomski
Costume Crew - Haylie Denzer, Karen Eisenhour, Hannah Killough, Raven Moore

1 - Arkadina, played by theatre arts major Chelsea Claussen, talks about her beauty with Masha, played by McKenzie Deremiah, and suggests to Masha that she wear something other than black during tech week rehearsals for "The Seagull" in The Theatre at the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

2 - Nina, played by theatre arts major Haylie Denzer, performs in Kostya's, theatre arts major Maya Hammond, play in "The Seagull" during tech rehearsal in The Theatre at the Doudna Fine Arts Center on October 14.

3 - Nina, played by theatre arts major Haylie Denzer, asks Kostya, played by theatre arts major Maya Hammond, why she has a dead seagull during tech week rehearsals for The Seagull in The Theatre at the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

4 - Medvedenko, played by theatre arts major Arron Whitt, Trigorin, played by theatre arts major Max Zumpano, and Arkadina, played by theatre arts major Chelsea Claussen, all discuss the stuffed seagull that Kostya had killed in Act 2 during tech week for "The Seagull" in The Theatre in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

5 - Nina, played by theatre arts major Haylie Denzer, tells Kostya, played by theatre arts major Maya Hammond, her longing for Trigorin and how she has failed as an actress during the tech week for "The Seagull" in The Theatre at the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

6 - Arkadina, played by theatre arts major Chelsea Claussen, begs Trigorin, played by theatre arts major Max Zumpano, to stay with her and tell her the reason why he loves Nina instead during the tech rehearsal for "The Seagull" in The Theatre.





Emilie Fox, a math major and PMB twirler, performs to "It's the World Turned Upside Down" from the musical "Peter Pan" during the Panther Marching Band: Live in Concert on Oct. 5.



ROTC moves to Coleman Hall

Let. Col. Enrique Loy, department chair of military sciences, discusses the move from Klehm Hall to Coleman Hall for the ROTC program and how the R program has adapted to COVID-19 protocols.

What has it been like to move from Klehm to Coleman Hall?

I think that’s one of the best changes the university allowed us to have. [Before] we were kind of separated, the classrooms were in a different area than our offices were, and now we’re kind of centralized so we have everything all together. The other thing we were able to do is that we had another room we were able to turn into a gym, so it’s a gym for the cadets. Our new PT test it came up with, you know, it’s a deadlift so most people when you say: “go deadlift,” they don’t want to start in the gym with just the bar because they’re a little bit embarrassed, so that gives them the opportunity to do that kind of stuff. Then, really, it’s just making the space ours. We’re still trying to fix it up, we still have some stuff in the corner, but we’re just continuing improving our area. It’s been a great change.

The National Guard has volunteered across the state by helping give COVID-19 vaccines. Has Eastern’s ROTC volunteered as well?

No, we do not do any of that stuff, but some of our cadets are in the

National Guard as well, so they have been taken out of classes and then they go and administer the vaccine or they’re doing the paperwork, the background work, and checking people in. Whereas once they get contracted here, and they’ve signed the contract that they want to be an officer and they want to commission out of here, we try to keep them focused on the schooling portion of it, so finish your schooling, then go into the army and become an officer. That’s where we don’t get into some of that stuff because if we said, “All right, this program is going to take a semester off, go do that,” then that really pushes everyone’s gradation date off a semester or more. So that’s why we try to keep them focused on the future goal versus the immediate right now.

How has ROTC adapted to COVID-19?

In this last year, there has been some challenges, but what we try to do is keep it as normal as possible. We’ve made some changes, of course, but we try to keep it as normal as possible. Interaction was some of [the reasons] why because some of my PMSes from other schools, they haven’t been back in school for this whole time, but we’ve had the luxury here to be back in school and being able to interact with our cadets. We had to make more sections in our classes, which just increased our workload, those changes weren’t bad. We’re still able to do PT with our cadets and we’re still able to go and do lab, it just changed a little bit. Yes, we are wearing



Cadets in ROTC stand in formation early on a Wednesday morning.

masks for some of our labs, but for PT we start with our masks but once we start running and doing the work out, that's where we took off our masks and made sure we increased our distance outside and just to make sure we were safe. It's something that we worked with the President and the Provost to make sure they will get treated like a lag team, so we're wearing the masks when we're closer together but as soon as we're able to spread out a little more, we take off that mask and increase the workload and do our physical training.

Have you been able to take trips this year?

Yes, in the summer they took a trip to go do a summer camp they were supposed to do at Fort Knox, so that one actually got canceled, and they went that summer, last summer, and they did that trip and instead of being a 30-day, it was just a 10-day condensed version of it. In the fall, we were able to do two. We went to Fort Knox and we were able to train just like normal, again it just changes a little bit with the masks, we had a lot more hand sanitizer, a lot more wiping stuff down, but that's where it goes back to trying to keep things as normal as possible. Just this weekend, we went to Fort Knox, and the big change with that one was that we usually take our whole program, that one we just focused on the juniors because they're about to go to camp this summer. We'll make sure to focus in again on that class, before they go off to get the initial training, understand what they need to work on before they go to camp.

What have been some difficulties adjusting to COVID-19?

One of the biggest difficulties is when we first started. As people started getting COVID, it would wipe out half the class and as soon as they came back from quarantine, if one person got it, and they quarantined a few others, half the class would get wiped out, so they wouldn't be in class. We would do a Microsoft Teams plus in-person [class], it's just having that interaction, and then the other half of the class, a week after, would wind up being quarantined. We were just trying to balance those things, so we wound up having a hybrid class and just working through those little widgets. With speakers everyone's has to be on, but if everyone's on at the same time you would get that feedback, that's really loud, so it's just figuring out those little things that ended up changing our classes. That was one of the bigger ones, some of the smaller ones is when people see one of our cadets running outside by themselves or taking a test, I'd get about 10 to 15 emails saying 'I saw your person, and he wasn't wearing a mask,' just those emails and helping people understand that we got permission or anyone in their uniform I'd get 'I saw it below his nose' or 'right at his nose' and getting those emails we'd tell them we'd take care of it. We're making sure we're staying on top of them and making sure they're as safe as possible, while at the same time still being able to conduct our training.



(Left to Right) Morgan Burcham, Sabrina Campos, Allisen Edwards, and professor Barbara Carlsward discuss an animal brought into class by another student.

Biology labs get split in two

As classes moved online, the biological sciences department had to find new ways to conduct laboratory classes.

Gary Bulla, the department chair for the department, said biology classes were given several options like online labs and two different options for in-person labs.

"We were more constrained by how many students we could have in a laboratory," Bulla said.

"We reduced our lab sizes, and with our laboratory set up, we could hold 12 students in a lab at a given time. We broke down our classes to two groups: an A and a B. In some cases, we would have group A in one week for the lab and group B would be in the other week, they also had alternating online



Morgan Burcham, Sabrina Campos, Allisen Edwards and Heather Keltner take turns petting a small lizard Keltner brought in.

assignments.

"In other cases, we would trim down the labs, our labs tend to be three hours in length, so we broke them down to hour and a half chunks and group A and group B would meet here each week in that three-hour time frame. Most labs are broken down like this or they meet every other week, in some cases, based on space availability, we were able to take

one half of the class in one room and the other half in another room, and run them at the same time," he said

If a course didn't have to go online, they would try to keep it as an in-person class, Bulla added, but some courses had to be cut because of class size or because they didn't transition well to an online format.

"We had to reconfigure a lot of things," Bulla said. "We had to reinvent laboratories, we had to scrap a lot of them because we couldn't do them in the context of social distancing, then make new ones we could do that with. There were some cases we just had to say, 'We can't so this' and come up with an online lab."

Barbara Carlsward, a biology professor, said she chose to keep her class in-person, but cut the laboratory time in half instead of alternating the class.

"This semester, because of the 6-foot distancing, the lab had to be broken up. We had several different options that were presented, there's an option where you cover half as much of the material for the semester and half the students are in person one week and the other half does something online and swap the next week, and I didn't want to cut my material in half," Carlsward said.

"The other option, the one I chose, you could split the lab up in two. I have 24 students, at maximum, and the lab group could only hold 12 so I split it up in part A and part B, but that means only get an hour and a half instead of three hours so I had to modify the lab."

Overall, Bulla doesn't think there are too many advantages with online laboratories due to the lack of interaction and hands-on activity.

"There's pretty much all disadvantages," Bulla said. "We really pride ourselves on the interaction and hands on experience: the relaxed atmosphere of setting up experiments, if things are not working quite right you can do it again. The three- or two-hour time blocks allows you to go through the experiments, if it doesn't work you can set it up and try again."

He added that while some changes made to labs weren't very good interaction wise, some changes were beatifical.

"I consider all of these other arrangements as kind of working around the edges as best we could," Bulla said, "the half and half, the alternate week, the two different labs, they're not so good, they work, but they're not so good. I will say some of the laboratories that are virtual labs, some of those are very well done, they are very interactive."

He added that the virtual labs allow students to work and make mistakes with hazardous chemicals

without the hazards being in the classroom.

With classes getting split up or going online, Carlsward said that students don't interact during the labs anymore.

"A downfall of splitting up the labs is that students are already not meeting other students, they're already six feet away, and they're not talking to anybody else, unless they knew them before coming in," Carlsward said. "The lab was a good opportunity for them to interact with each other and meet, more so than in the lecture where I just talk, and splitting that in half, they don't know a whole other half of the class, and they're even less likely to talk, which is weird you'd think with a smaller group they'd talk more to each other but no. Now they're not talking to anybody, the atmosphere of the lab has dramatically changed for the worse."

While the atmosphere for the lab has changed, Carlsward said she marked her class as hybrid in case anyone was quarantined and uploaded as much material as she could online for students.

She said the hybrid format came in handy, when she was quarantined herself.

"I had to go into quarantine this semester because I was potentially exposed by my grandpa," Carlsward said, "and it was nice that I could do it online and not miss a whole week of class but normally I wouldn't do that, it is nice to have as a backup."

Additional changes they have made are placing personal protection

equipment out in classrooms like disinfectant wipes, social distancing tape, and papers around the classrooms reminding students what they can and can't do. For classes that needed safety glasses, Bulla said the department bought each student a pair of safety glasses and stored them in a baggie with the student's name on it.

Bulla added that the pandemic has been hard on everyone, but he hopes everything will be back to normal in the fall.

"It's been a hardship for everyone involved, student and faculty and the administration, just trying to get through the tough times of all of these changes," Bulla said. "It's affected some, maybe some students do fine with It, but I know some students really struggle with the online format and the uncertainty of it all and we can't do much about it besides trying to get back to normal in the fall."



Sabrina Campos, Morgan Burcham, Allisen Edwards, and Barbara Carlsward discuss various bones and other animal parts that are scattered on the table.



Double duty:

EIU employee opens doughnut shop

The happiest place in the world, second only to Disney World, sits on the corner of Ninth Street and Lincoln Avenue, its bright yellow sign promising customers a sugary breakfast treat.

Marschelle McCoy opened Revival City Doughnuts' doors in July 2020, a longtime dream come true that sometimes doesn't feel real.

"I remember one time I was standing in the back, making the doughnuts and flipping them, and I just thought, 'Is this real? Am I in 'The Twilight Zone'?" McCoy said. "I looked around, and I'm like, 'This is real' and I said that to the employee who was there. She said, 'Not only are you making doughnuts in a doughnut shop, it's your shop.' Sometimes it's still surreal to me."

McCoy first had the idea to open a shop when she volunteered at her friend's bakery, Sweet to Specialties. The bakery specialized in gourmet brownies and McCoy enjoyed



A worker dips a round doughnut in caramel sauce. They are working on making a batch of crème brûlée doughnuts—one of the many specialty doughnuts Revival City Doughnuts offers.

volunteering at the shop.

"When she closed, I always thought, 'Man, I would like to have a bakery,'" McCoy said. "It was years later, and I thought, 'Why don't I just go get a bakery?' It never crossed my mind to do so. Not very long ago, I just thought about it, and rather than a whole bakery, I'd rather have a doughnut shop."

McCoy made her first doughnuts in her kitchen, with a small fryer from Walmart, biscuit dough and peanut butter.

From there she searched the Internet for recipes and practiced making glazes as she researched the doughnut-making process.

"Based on my research, glazes and icings are difficult," McCoy said, "so that was the very next thing I did before I made doughnuts."

Once her glaze was perfected, McCoy moved on to make cake doughnuts and experiment with flavors like double coconut, upside down pineapple and Hawaiian delight.

She would then bring her doughnuts to church for taste testing.

"My church gained a lot of weight that year," McCoy said. "I took them to Sunday school all the time."

After many experiments with doughnut flavors and glaze in her kitchen and taste tests at her church, McCoy was able to open Revival City Doughnuts' doors.

While the opening process didn't go as planned when COVID-19 shut down the nation, McCoy said the delayed opening was a blessing in disguise.

"It really delayed our opening by several months, but it's OK because it gave me time to perfect," McCoy said. "Where I thought I was ready, I wasn't, and so it gave me time to perfect various things in the business, including the building preparation."

The biggest change she made in those months was making the shop a walk- or drive-up shop than a walk-in, and with COVID-19 regulations in place, it helped everyone ease into walking or driving up.

The shop specializes in gourmet doughnuts, which are made at random by the employees. The "Sugar Momma" was made during the chaos of their morning rush when a cashier saw a smashed doughnut and decided to make something.

The cashier smeared some yellow buttercream on top. She wasn't sure what to put on next, so McCoy suggested pink sprinkles.

The doughnut looked good, but it needed more.

"She put some cream on it, and then we got really busy, so we all went back to work, turned around, and the cream had completely melted on her donut," McCoy said. "I said, 'That's OK, just put some powder sugar on it and it'll dry up the liquid,' so she powder sugared it, and I'm like, 'OK I need you to make a tray those.'"

Tyler King, a high school student, said he applied to work at the shop when he saw an ad on Facebook, and loves working in the doughnut shop.

"The friendship with everybody and being able to come here and like act like it's home," King said. "You just walk in doing your thing most of the time, it's really easy work. I really like to ice and sprinkle [doughnuts], that's like my main thing."

When McCoy isn't at Revival City Doughnuts, she works in the biological sciences department as the office manager. Between opening the shop at 4:30 a.m and working at the biology 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m, and running errands, she stays active at her church. Her lunch breaks are often spent training employees or interviewing potential employees.

Despite the long to-do list, she said her employees have helped take on some tasks like scheduling or taking inventory.

McCoy often refers to Revival City Doughnuts as the second happiest place on Earth to work at due to the atmosphere and relationship between employees. But she had a hard time getting employees, so she went through an employment agency.

"From the beginning he said that I don't think you're paying enough. They can go to McDonald's and make more," McCoy said.

Eventually, the agency sent somebody to her: an older woman who had troubles with back pain. After a while, the agency called McCoy to tell her they would be offering the woman another position.

"She turned it down because she wanted to be at the doughnut shop," McCoy said. "I called him, and I said, 'I told you this is the happiest place to work on Earth and that's why she doesn't want to leave.'"

Story, photos, and page design by Elizabeth Wood



A worker torches the brown sugar on top of the crème brulee doughnuts, to create a thin layer of hard sugar on top.



McCoy lays freshly cut and shaped doughnuts onto a tray, to later be placed in the proofer.



A tray of freshly made Green Wave doughnuts. They are a specialty doughnut made exclusively for cafés and other small shops to sell in Mattoon.



Marschelle McCoy, the office manager of the department of biological sciences and owner of Revival City Doughnuts, places a few more doughnuts on a tray to cool.



McCoy dips cooled doughnuts into her homemade glaze.



Doughnuts are cut from a freshly rolled out piece of dough.



McCoy cuts off the edges off the cut out doughnut.

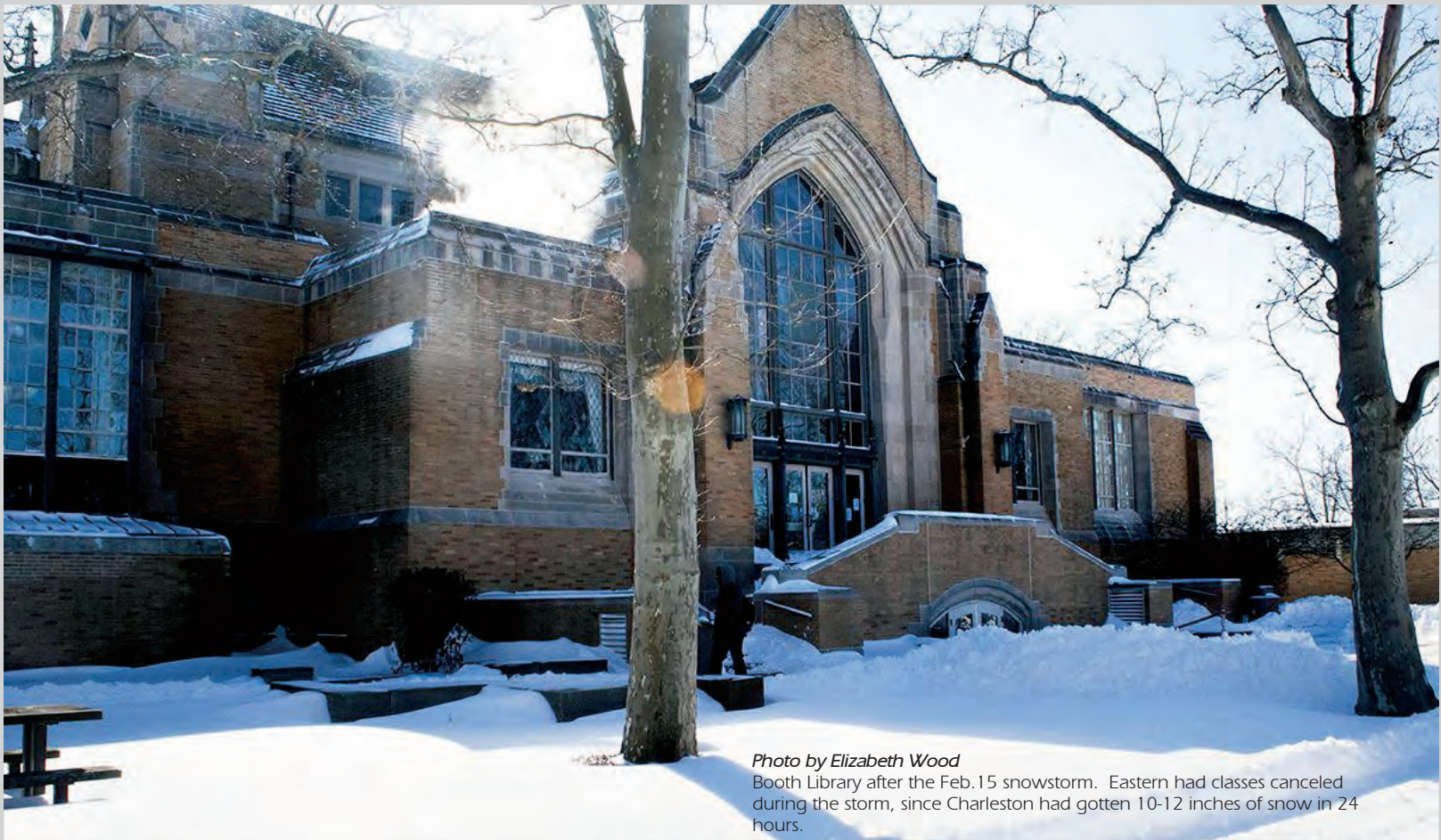


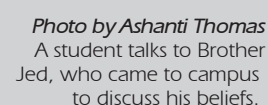
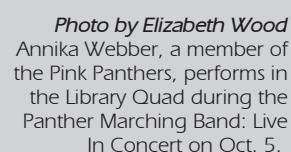
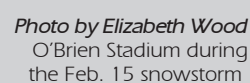
Photo by Elizabeth Wood
Booth Library after the Feb.15 snowstorm. Eastern had classes canceled during the storm, since Charleston had gotten 10-12 inches of snow in 24 hours.



Photo By Elizabeth Wood
Max Balch, the head foreman on Tuesday, boards up and knocks excess glass off of a broken window in Andrews Hall. Balch said he suspects it had broken from the cold.



Photo by Ashanti Thomas
Faith Wellbaum, a senior majoring in professional and creative writing walks with her sister, Hannah Wellbaum, a junior majoring in psychology and social work.



How to make

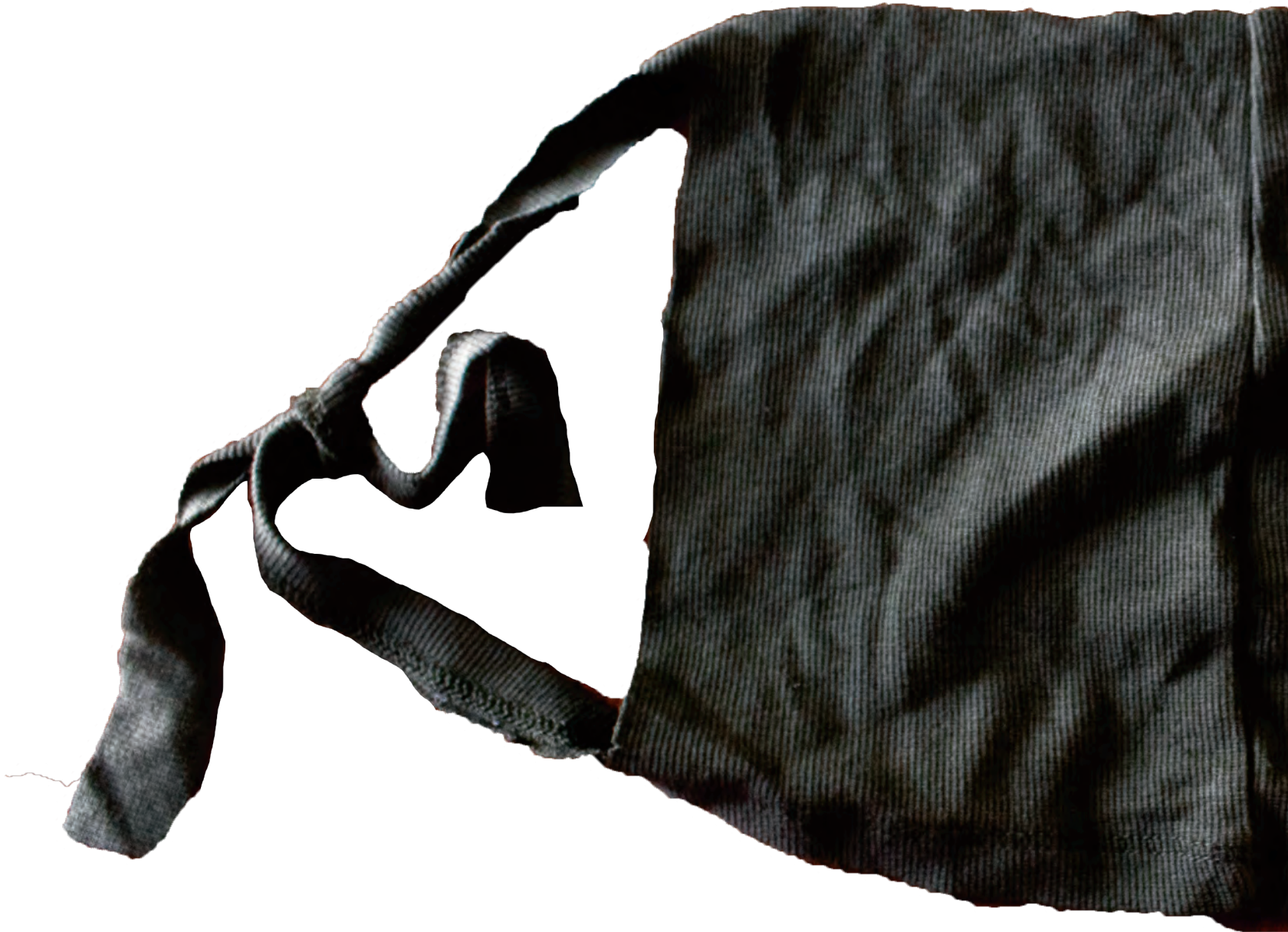
Step one: Fold your shirt in half vertically



Step two: Measure and cut off 7 inches from the bottom of the shirt



Step three: Measure 14 inches across and cut off the excess.



a no-sew mask

H

Step four: Measure 7 inches along the top and bottom of the shirt. These will be your ear ties. Make the width of the strips an inch and cut.



Step five: Cut out the excess fabric between the strips. Unfold and tie the ties behind your head.



Photos and page design by Elizabeth Wood.

Walsworth



Tarble offers mailed mask kits

The Tarble Arts Center may not have been able to host indoor galleries during the fall and spring semester due to the pandemic, but it was able to find a way to deliver a make-your-own mask kit to anyone who applied online.

Jennifer Baker, the director of the center, said the idea to send out kits first started in July, so she and the previous director recruited various staff members into a committee to design a mask kit.

"When it was nearing time for students to come back in the fall, we thought it would be really great to provide a mask making kit," Baker said. "Eastern provided every student with just one mask, and everyone would have to wash it every day, and maskne became a thing, and we wanted people to be able to have enough masks to feel safe and also use it as a creative activity."

Once the committee was organized, they set to work on finding three different mask designs of varying difficulty.

Karen Eisenhower, a theatre professor, was a member of the committee who was part of the group that looked through different designs.

"We all brainstormed together," Eisenhower said, "and we asked, 'What's one mask that anybody could do no matter what? How can we make a no-sew mask?' And so we went online and figured out different patterns."

Baker said they wanted to make a kit for everyone, from those who have never touched a sewing kit to experienced sewers, while also building on the skills used in the kits.

"The first one was no sew kit and didn't require any sewing skills whatsoever. Then, the next kit introduced some really simple sewing techniques to reinforce that mask, so if you got mask kit 1 you could make this really simple mask and if you decided to do mask kit 2 you could, there's some stitching to reinforce the mask that you made in kit 1," Baker said.

"Then, kit 3 is the most advanced one, still very simple technique, but it actually creates a much more sophisticated mask that is really cute."

From there, graphic design professors began to make instructions based on the designs.

Graduate student Grace Fosu tested out the kits. She said she had been helping with the project and volunteered to test the directions because she had no previous experience in sewing.

"The first was quite easy because there was no sewing. It's just you cutting your own old T-shirt, making a tie out of it, and using pins," Fosu said. "It was just easy, it was just folding and putting it in a tie and then pinning it, so that was easy. The second one, that one was a little bit confusing because of the sewing."

In addition to the typed directions, Baker said they wanted to add illus-

trations as well.

"There were some things where it's like you can explain it, but there are certain people that think more spatially and they need to see it," Baker said.

Fosu added that whenever she got confused, she would ask someone on the committee to help her. She guessed that they had gone through at least 24 drafts of the directions.

Baker added they wanted to make the directions as simple as possible.

"We were really thinking of like IKEA directions because there's so simple," Baker said.

Once they were tested, the kits were packed up and sent out to those who signed up online. Baker said that if someone got multiple kits, they would combine the supplies so they wouldn't end up with two or three pairs of scissors or too much fabric or thread.

Overall, the goal of the committee was to put as many masks in the community's hands as possible, while providing a skill set that would allow participants to make their own masks.

Deborah Reifsteck, a fashion merchandise professor and part of the mask designing portion of the committee, said once participants make the mask in the kit, they can personalize it easily.

"You can still put your personality into it and select your materials," Reifsteck said, "but you don't have to be able to use its own machine."



Professors donate masks:

Providing masks to those in need

March 12, 2020, will live on in infamy in both student's and professor's minds as the day Eastern announced classes would be going online for the last six weeks of the 2020 spring semester. Amid the initial chaos after the announcement, several professors found solace in making and donating masks.

Professors Julie Dietz, department chair and professor for public health, and Karen Eisenhour, a costume design professor, began making masks in March, soon after Eastern announced that classes would be exclusively online.

Eisenhour said that making masks was one of the ways she could help the community, during a time that had felt helpless.

"I felt very helpless, and I don't like that feeling," Eisenhower said, "so I felt that it was important to give back and I felt it was important to help the best you can, and that was one of the ways I could help."

Eisenhour added that she started by giving her first round of masks to friends and family to see what designs would work best.

"It's funny because people don't want to tell you if something doesn't work," Eisenhower said, "and I'm like, 'No I need to know because then I can make it better, different, unique.'"

Dietz said making masks was a tangible way for her to help the community.

"It is something tangible I can do to be of help," Dietz said, "and it's something that is needed."

Dietz added that she started making masks for those who worked in the medical field.

"I have many friends and former students who are medical professionals, and especially nurses and/or emergency department staff," Dietz said. "When I learned they were running short of PPEs, and that cloth masks were actually of use, I got started."

As more people fired up their sewing machines and threaded their needles across the US, supplies began to run low. Elastic and fabric alike began to run low, elastic in particular

became very scarce as Hobby Lobby and Walmart's shelves began to look bare. However, when the normal supplies ran low, people persevered and found replacements for elastic.

Dietz said she had enough fabric in her stash to use, but she had to find an alternative for elastic.

"I actually used shock cord, a type of light weight bungie cord, initially," Dietz said.

Despite the lack of supplies, Eisenhower said she loved the creative alternatives people have come up with, from using pieces of a T-shirt as bands for masks to using vacuum sweeper bags as filters. One of the first things Eisenhower said that she had trouble finding was the metal nose pieces used to keep masks in place.

"The individual brackets [round fasteners] that you can hold paper, like hold paper with hole punches in it, the clips that fold up," Eisenhower explained. "In my first masks that's all I used for the nose pieces, they worked well, and I still have a lot of them. I have two boxes of them at home just in case."

Between the two, several hundred masks were made and donated to places around the community.

Dietz said she has made around 600 masks since March. Meanwhile, Eisenhour shyly mentioned she has lost count because she works in large batches.

"I did batches, and I still work in batches," Eisenhower said, "I will cut 30, 40, 50 at a time and once I got all of those cut, I go back and sew them all, so that way I have my own assembly line because I didn't have anybody here to help [me]."

Dietz added that she has donated masks to the Carle Hospital Emergency Department early in the pandemic due to the demand for masks, but she later donated masks to Eastern's track and field team and kept masks in a basket in the hall by her department.

"After we went remote, I sent masks to friends and students who needed them," Dietz said.

"Once EIU started in the fall, we kept a basket of free masks outside the department of Public Health main office, and I kept the basket full to the best of my ability."



Anakin Weston, a student, gets help setting up a sewing machine by Karen Eisenhower during scheduled mask making.



Emma Tonkovic spend their extra free-time sewing masks in Doudna's costume shop. Mrs. Eisenhower visually records herself instructing on how to sew a mask, for students that could not be there.

"Mask-er" Class

As mask mandates swept the nation, some classes at Eastern took the mask wearing in stride and integrated mask making into their classes.

Two of these classes are Introduction to Fashion Merchandising and Introduction to Costume Design.

Deborah Reifsteck, a fashion merchandising professor, said mask making was one of the first projects she assigned her students.

"I usually begin teaching the basic concepts of sewing basics," Reifsteck said. "I decided to go ahead and have them make a very simple mask, that I knew they would be able to do with either little to no sewing experience."

She added that she had the students make three different designs: a mask with horizontal pleats, a mask with vertical pleats, and another mask with horizontal pleats but with a different design.

Karen Eisenhower, a costume

design professor, also started her students out on masks to learn basic sewing skills. She said she noticed that she could teach students how to do pleats or stitching on a smaller garment.

"I teach skill sets, and they can be adapted to different parts, so instead of pleating something into a garment, you're now learning to put pleats in the sides of a mask," Eisenhower said. "You're using the same skill sets just to a different end."

She added the masks can then become a reference point in later lessons.

"It's just a different application, so if they went to make a garment later on, I can go: 'remember that dart you mask, yep same thing' and so it becomes a different reference point," Eisenhower said.

Reifsteck said starting students off on making masks does not just teach the basics, but it also gives the students an opportunity to learn how

to make and personalize extra masks if they need them.

"You can select your pattern, your preferred fit, or your style because not all masks are exactly the same, so then you could make your own mask, in a way that you prefer, so that it can fit on your face and that's a nice way you can tailor it," Reifsteck said, "You can select your own fabric too, so you can really tailor it to your personality."

In addition to being able to personalize their masks, Eisenhower added that it allows students to have masks that fit.

"Every so often I see people with wearing masks that slide off their nose or its too small or too big," Eisenhower said. "My hope is, if I do it pretty early in the semester, they will have masks that will work and fit and will be safer for them and others."

Design by: Morgan Bledsoe; Story by: Elizabeth Wood; Photos by: Bryce Herrin

with groups and individuals to handle the issues and situations that arise from COVID.

"I prefer to work as EIU employees and faculty. There is no reason to separate us, and this particular type of opportunity allows for me to work really across the board with a variety of different people," Simons says.

Her genuine appreciation for people and willingness to work and look out for everyone really enhances her ability to do an excellent job communicating and working through the problems that COVID is throwing her way, and as the go to person for handling COVID-19 on campus, Simons' days are full and involve many tasks. Somehow, she makes it work.

"I don't know where she gets her energy," said Nikki Hillier, a friend and colleague in the department of public health. "She starts first thing in the morning, and never ends, her Garmin watch never stops, she responds to every single person quickly, and she's a teacher by nature."

And teaching is something Simons takes very seriously.

"The philosophy I have is really simple, the first thing is that if you challenge your students, it will probably make them uncomfortable, but you have to be willing to let them challenge you and make you uncomfortable too, so that's the first thing, the second is that it is my job is to protect them, and the third is to love them, that's it; it's really simple," Simons says.

Her students appreciate her dedication and willingness to challenge them as well.

"She teaches some of our most challenging classes and the students love her and love being challenged by her, and she has a great sense of humor and that's something everyone will say about her, all of her students, if you ask them what their favorite classes are, they usually cite hers and the one thing they always say is she is hilarious," Hillier says.

Something that she has done to make sure students feel comfortable coming and asking her questions, is set up a little espresso and cappuccino table in her office. A stack of colorful little planter mugs-the perfect size for a jolt of caffeine- stacks up next to the espresso machine, and another stack of little espresso to-go cups sit on the other side. She also has a milk frother to use for cappuccinos that she has set out for students who occasionally -at least when were not in a pandemic- come in to

make an espresso or cappuccino, pop in to say hi, and ask questions.

"She's an expert on a lot of things, so it's typical for people to come to her and kind of ask different questions about different things, I mean students come in like 'I've got this sore, what's this?', or 'I've got this type of pain here...', so she's kind of like Dr. Google of our department," Hillier says.

Her dedication for looking out for students is something that her colleagues really something that defines her.

"I know she has sat in the ER with students, I know that she has loaned her vehicle when needed, especially with some of the COVID testing early, especially when the only place you could go was Sarah Bush, she was working with students and they didn't have vehicles and they didn't have any way to get out there, and she was like, 'here are my keys, you need to get tested.' She will help in any way that she can, and I so admire that about her," says Julie Dietz, chair of the public health department who has worked with Simons, since they both started teaching at Eastern in 1992.

While Simons spends an incredible amount of time working on COVID, supporting the community, teaching, and answering questions and concerns from various individuals, she also has her own life to live, which includes spending time doing things she enjoys, like being active.

"She was always an athlete and has cycled through various iterations of that, she was a thrower in high school, and now when she has time she does triathlons, so I think that's a constant that's just changed forms over the years..." Dietz says.

Her passion for helping people, is something that is important to her not just as a professor, but in everyday life too.

"I think she likes to keep busy, but I think it's also just that she is a helper, and she has this spirit of helping..." says Hillier.

Her spirit of helping can be seen in her actions, offering up her time to help people make sure their practices and facilities are safe, being there for students when they need her, and even being available for a random student to interview her.

As she heads back to the office, to handle more calls and aid with those who need her, she is still full of energy and seems ready to take on anything.



The Department of Public Health Student Achievement Award is awarded every spring to graduate and undergraduates who study public health. Each year the department hosts a fundraiser to help raise money for the scholarship, and this year was no different—though the fundraiser had a little twist.

The fundraiser was called "The Masked Epidemiologist" and featured Sheila Simons' likeness on masks, mugs, and clothing.

"It started as a bit of a joke in the office," said Julie Dietz, the department chair of public health. "Dr. Simons has been an invaluable source of solid information through the pandemic and had become a public face throughout the region and even the state. We started joking about 'The Masked Epidemiologist.'"

Simons, a professor in the public health department and contact tracer for Eastern, said they decided to make a silhouette of her head once people became interested in the idea.

"As I kind of became more and more of a resource," Simons said, "people seemed interested in the concept of the T-shirt, and we thought, 'What the heck let's do it.'"

In less than 24 hours, Simons' wife, who is a graphic designer, made the logo for "The Masked Epidemiologist" and the department set up a temporary shop on Facebook.

Due to its popularity, the department had to reopen the shop three times.

So far, the fundraiser has raised around \$1,400.

Walsworth



News 2020-2021

September

21 - Sixty-five RSOs participated in Pantherpalooza, to showcase registered student organizations. It was held through a website called CampusGroups, which allowed RSO members to set up virtual booths and video conferences could talk with interested students.

October

8 - As part of Latino Heritage Month, a Zoom discussion of Colorism was sponsored by LASO. Colorism is a prejudice or discrimination against people with darker skin tones, typically among people within a single racial or ethnic group.

17 - The Speech Panthers earned fourth place in the virtual 2020 Chicago Swing Tournament. Marguerite McHale received third place in extemporaneous speaking and fifth place in impromptu speaking. Jerimiah Boyd-Johnson received sixth place in impromptu speaking.

23 - As part of LGBT History Month, the GSD Center and EIU Pride held a 90-minute "Big Gay" panel via Zoom, to discuss issues of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, transgender, nonbinary, gender-fluid, genderqueer, asexual and demisexual. Sam Hennegan is president of EIU Pride.

March

4 - Students Starr Smith, Morgan Colvin, Keshyra Bluminberg, Marcus Powell and Maria Cruz were part of a "Race Matters at EIU: Voices from the Yard" virtual panel moderated by Tim Abel, Tarble education manager. Some professors, including Carole Collins Ayanlaja and Catherine Polydore, took part as well.

panther_media



15
Posts

4
Media Outlets

Student Media

The Daily Eastern News—newspaper
News Watch—nightly newscast

The Warbler—yearbook
Hit-Mix 88.9 FM—radio station

Join RSO



John Wills: Hit-Mix 88.9 FM in Buzzard Hall.



Elizabeth Wood and Sofia Turek: The Warbler



Luke Taylor: Associate News Editor, The Daily Eastern News



Everett Lau, voted co-Outstanding Senior Journalist by the Society for Collegiate Journalists: News Watch



The Student Publications newsroom, home to the yearbook and newspaper and some faculty offices, is in Buzzard Hall



Oscar Rzodkiewicz, voted co-Outstanding Senior Journalist by the Society for Collegiate Journalists: News Watch

Reporting in COVID: Changes to Student Media

EWIU student media: a nightly newscast, a daily student newspaper and its online edition, a radio station and a yearbook, have faced many difficulties and challenges over the course of the pandemic, but each has found ways to carry on and continue to report news for the community.

Conducting interviews has shown to be an issue for all four of Eastern's student media, but News Director for WEIU Kelly Goodwin says they have found ways to get the interviews done safely.

"For a long period of time, students didn't go out in the community for safety reasons, but when we returned to interviewing people, newsmakers for stories, we either resulted to Zoom or we managed to have equipment," Goodwin said.

Goodwin added that WEIU has brought long boom mics for in-person interviews.

"When we would interview people, we had a long, probably 6-foot mic boom that would separate us from the newsmaker, and, of course, we were still masked," Goodwin said.

Elizabeth Wood, the Warbler's Editor-in-Chief, says the main problem her staff has run into is getting people to respond to emails for interviews.

"You can't just go into people's office hours anymore, we have to email them, and a lot don't really respond, or we'll email them two or three times before we give up and try to find someone else," Wood said.

Wood added that if they couldn't find someone else for the story they would try to call their source.

"If we can't find someone else for that story, we'll contact a secretary or we'll call their phone number if they have one or if they have someone above them, we'll try to get in contact with them," Wood said.

Radio station Production Supervisor Rob Calhoun says one of the bigger issues Hit-Mix 88.9 FM had faced at the start and throughout the pandemic is scheduling.

"They had that two-week period where we weren't sure who was going to be coming back and who wasn't going to be coming back," Calhoun said. "Finally, we did find out who all was back, and we ended up making a schedule with that.

"It was kind of a makeshift schedule to make sure that we had the main hours covered, which would be the morning show, lunchtime, and afternoon drive," he said.

The Daily Eastern News Editor-in-Chief Adam Tumino says the biggest challenge for the DEN staff has been the lack of events to cover.

"There haven't been very many in-person events on campus in the last year, so that's usually very helpful," Tumino said. "In the past, there'd be a couple of things happening every day and we'd go, we'd take pictures, we'd talk to a few people, and then we'd have a story and a few photos ready for the paper. A lot of things have been virtual, a lot of things have been toning down this year, so we haven't had that opportunity."

Calhoun says what motivates the staff during the pandemic is loving what they do.

"We love coming in here, playing music, and entertaining the audiences, and I think that's given the students a lot of motivation to try to stay healthy, trying to avoid big group situations because this is something that they love to do," Calhoun said.

Story by Heather Vosburgh
Photos by Bryce Herrin
Page Design by Lauren Frick



dali_sayshello



3
Posts

22
Members

Hello Dali

Our purpose is to to entertain and educate people about improvisation through our shows and workshops.



Members				
Paul Blanchard	Ben Klingler	Killeen Reidy	President: Steven McDunn	
Aidan Collins	Steven McDunn	Bridget Spillman	Vice President: McClain Homann	
Lucas Grindley	Nicki Meyer	Emily Thorpe	Secretary: Abby Moore	
McClain Homann	Abby Moore		Treasurer: Aidan Collins	
Ethan Homeyer	Rashad Oliver		Adviser: Christopher Gadomski	
Jannah Judeh	Lilly Pampel			
Kaleb Reed	Ty Patterson			



eiu_pride

12

Posts

6

Members

EIU Pride

Purpose: To work for the rights of the community to express their sexual and/or romantic orientation, as well as their gender identity freely

Join RSO



eiu_pride



Bottom: Peter Dompke, Sam Hennegan, Ci Richardson
Top: George Barton, Blake Minor, Izzy Hernandez

EIU Pride reaches community name agreement

Story from The Daily Eastern News, March 22, 2021

EIU Pride has reached an agreement with the university regarding the name of the LGBTQ+ living learning community coming to Eastern in the fall.

The agreement comes after multiple weeks of debate between the RSO and university officials. Following a sit-in Monday afternoon, the group has gained the support of the university for the committee to be named and advertised as the Doug DiBianco Community.

On Eastern’s website describing the themed floors available to students, the section describing the gender inclusive community now states:

“The Doug DiBianco Learning Community is an inclusive community designed to create a comfortable and supportive environment for all students of all gender and sexual identities. Community members have the opportunity to connect with role models and allies at EIU. The community also has a partnership with the Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity. You can request to live in this community by selecting “Gender Inclusive Housing” in your Room and Board Contract, and approval is granted through the GSD Center. For 2021-22, the Gender Inclusive Housing is located on a residential floor in McKinney Hall.”

Dibianco taught for 32 years but also founded the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Allies Union that later became EIU Pride.

According to Sam Hennegan, EIU Pride President and junior English major, Dibianco’s contribution means a lot to the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

"He was a person who provided a space for the LGBTQ community when we were not allowed on campus because EIU was not always accessible to our community," Hennegan said during a EIU Pride meeting with University President David Glassman, Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Flaherty and Vice President for University Advancement Ken Wetstein.

Hennegan expressed gratitude for the space the community was given, but said it was important to them that the space was given DiBianco’s name due to his contributions as an ally to the community and his dedication to creating a space for LGBTQ+ students at Eastern.

A post from Hennegan on EIU Pride’s Facebook outline what exactly the RSO was seeking and why they were seeking it.

“We want the name to be on the housing application, the EIU website, and all marketing. After meeting with President Glassman we have been told that we can only have the name “unofficially.”

This means that EIU will not directly be calling it the Doug DiBianco community, but the students can call it

that if they want,” Hennegan said. “The reasons why we want his name is because of safety and to honor him. Many closeted students have their parents know where they live. The administration originally wanted it to be the Pride floor and by naming it after a person it decreases the likelihood that parents will question their housing assignment.”

Before walking to Old Main students met at the Mellin Steps at the Doudna Fine Arts Center where they had chalked a variety of messages.

Messages included, “It’s our community, let us name it!”, DiBianco in bold letters and “It’s LGBTQ+ not LQPAT.”

The message, “It’s LGBTQ+ not LQPAT,” was in reference to Glassman misspeaking during a meeting with the RSO and saying LGBTQIA+ incorrectly.

Many signs at the sit-in held the same sentiment as the chalked messages.

After discussion between Glassman and Hennegan, it was realized there was miscommunication on what specifically was being asked of the university. Within twenty minutes of the sit-in the website was changed and updated to reflect what the group was looking for.

After the discussion was had between supporters of the living learning community’s name and Glassman, a rainbow was visible over the castle. Many of those at the sit-in said they saw the rainbow as a good sign.

Previously, Glassman and Wetstein said at an RSO meeting the naming process is not as simple as selecting a name significant to EIU Pride.

The men explained that while in the past it was common practice to name buildings after established members of the university community, now university naming strongly follows in the footsteps of philanthropy and donations to the university.

The floor is an option for students applying for housing for next year.

While it is primarily open for who identify as LGBTQ+, it is also for allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

Students who are not out are able to live on the floor as well, the website states: “We hope you can see this as a place where you can be yourself and be anywhere in your identity journey.”

The floor is different from others in that its programming will be focused on LGBTQIA+ identities. The floor will also have a close relationship with the Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity.

The website states, “We hope that this floor provides a space for students to live without having to justify their identity!”

The community will be starting in McKinney Hall will the potential of moving at the community grows.

laso_eiu



12
Posts

36
Members

Latin American Student Organization

Purpose: To promote and address the issues of educational, cultural, and social aspects of the Latino communities on all levels. To support all members to achieve their fullest potential by providing social, academic leadership, and spiritual growth experiences.



laso_eiu



Back (left to right): Kyara Morales-Rodriguez, Luis Paniagua, and Monica Maybell.
Front (left to right): Jasmine Rivera, Alexandra Tinajero, and Diana Argueta.

LASO provides home for Latinx Panthers

LASO is the Latin American Student Organization at Eastern Illinois University. This organization has multiple purposes on campus, including promoting and addressing the educational, cultural and social aspects of Latino communities on all levels.

In February, the group met to create dog toys for “pups in need” and write letters to future Latinx Panthers.

The group has stayed active this year, and it has had some in-person meetings at the Martin Luther King Jr. Union. For example, in March it met in the Charleston/Mattoon Room to discuss future events like collaborating with EIU’s Pride Club, Latinx organizations and local businesses like Dirty’s Bar and Grill

Toward the end of February, one of the group’s past events worked with Dirty’s Bar & Grill for a fundraiser, where 15 percent of evening orders went to LASO.

LASO’s first in-person meeting was in October to celebrate Halloween by having a bonfire with a costume contest.

LASO usually meets at 6 p.m. every Thursday via Zoom due to COVID-19.

“Our meetings were moved onto Zoom and it was hard to recruit,” said LASO President Diana Argueta.

Argueta is a junior double majoring in graphic design and Spanish. Argueta has been involved with LASO since her freshman year and on her first meeting nominated herself as secretary. Ever since then, she’s been on executive board.

As president, Argueta’s roles are typing up agendas, setting up

the board meetings weekly, plan out future events, reaching out to other organizations, etc.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez, a junior English with a concentration of creative and professional writing, is on the executive board as the secretary for LASO.

“COVID-19 had made it difficult to connect with others,” Morales-Rodriguez said.

Argueta said that LASO members see each other as family and that was extremely important for a lot of their members who felt alone and suffocated during COVID-19.

LASO used social media to its advantage like Instagram to gain members into the club.

On LASO’s Instagram, Jasmine Rivera, a junior graphic design major, made sure the club has a welcoming look and posts event fliers up to create advertisements.

The group’s Facebook page documents the organization’s game nights and celebrates members’ birthdays.

On Oct. 8 LASO board members hosted a Zoom event explaining colorism and the damages of colorism within the Latinx community and some possible solutions as part of Latin American Heritage Month.

They took part in the Charleston Christmas parade downtown. LASO is also creating an event in honor to celebrate Women’s History Month.

LASO is looking to prepare for the next generation of the executive board for the club as multiple members are graduating in spring 2021.

Executive Board

- Monica Maybell Adviser
- Diana Argueta President
- Alexandra Tinajero Vice President
- Luis Paniagua Treasurer
- Kyara Morales-Rodriguez Secretary
- Jasmine Rivera Public Relations

Members

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Kristal Munoz | Chavionne Thomas |
| Rene Mora | Martin Solis |
| Mariana Trejo | Izzy Hernandez |
| Christian Watson | Diego Romero |
| Justin Mitchell | Tamara Perez |
| Sergio Castro | Jesus De La Cruz |
| Diana Cardenas | Jonathan Gutierrez |
| Alexis Avila | Alejandro Carvajal |
| Mitzi Morales | Keyaunna Bunch |
| Daisy Garcia | Jasmine Yusef |
| Brianna King | Diana Rogel |
| Ivy James | Blake Meadows |
| Alexandra Gomez | Jennifer Escobedo |
| Anahi Osorio | Angel Enriquez |
| Tais Medellin | Adam Sandoval |

Story by Lilly Pampel
Photo by Elizabeth Wood;
Spread Design by Lauren Frick





apsieiu

10

Posts

7

Members

Alpha Psi Lambda

Greek Organization

The nation's first & largest co-ed Latino fraternity, established in 1985

Join RSO



apsieiu



Back (left to right): Blake Meadows, Luis Paniagua, and Diana Argueta
Front (left to right): Jennifer Escobedo, Alexandra Tinajero, Jasmine Rivera, and Diana Rogel



eiu_ais

14

Posts

9

Board Members

Association of International Students

Purpose: AIS organizes activities to promote cultural exchange and understanding among students, staff and faculty at EIU as well as the greater Charleston community.



eiu_ais



President Frank O Gyimah, along with seven members of the Association of International Students, come to together and have its lost meeting of the semester.

A home away from home: AIS adapts to virtual format

Frank Gyimah fights for new opportunities for international students at Eastern Illinois University and is asking for the campus’ love and acceptance toward them. Gyimah, a graduate student in technology, is the president of the Association of International Students. Most activities for international students are being canceled or held virtually, but Gyimah is still cultivating ideas for members of his RSO. He is also trying new tactics to bring in more international students. International students are craving opportunities to go to college, and Gyimah said he wants to make this happen with the support and love from the EIU community. Gyimah was born and raised in Ghana, but he was offered funding to continue his computer science degree at Eastern Illinois. He was immediately put in the Association of International Students. Before becoming president of AIS, he held the graphic design position for AIS. Gyimah, who is a graduate assistant in the Study Abroad office, has become the face of AIS, and has run into many challenges along the way. COVID-19 has been a struggle for everyone, and it has not made things easy for Gyimah and AIS. “My hardest job of being president right now is getting the couple hundred of our members to all meet at a particular time, and the participation from members has dropped from this,” Gyimah said. On Jan. 15, 2021, they held their annual bowling social event, the first since the pandemic started last year. It turned out pretty well, and Gyimah was pretty happy with the turnout. Many of the students who belong to this group are missing out on meetings for the club, hanging out in general, and their signature event, Global Culture Night, all being canceled and moved to virtual meetings. “Global Culture Night being moved online really changes the feel of the event, and makes it less impactful,” he said. The annual event is usually in the ballroom with around 500 people participating. This night usually gives students an opportunity to showcase and share their traditions and customs for the campus community. This year, as it was moved online, members are recording a clip of themselves highlighting their culture and posting it for people to see on the week of Nov. 12. Changes like this are a challenge for the group, Gyimah said. Gyimah’s main goals are to expose the realities and stereotypes of international students, create new opportunities for future international students, and to make Eastern Illinois a safe haven for all international students. He said AIS is a place to have fun and it is a home away from home for international students.

Executive Board Members

Frank O. Gyimah - President

Nikolaos Pouliarekos - Vice President

Joan M Philip - Secretary

Anirudh Ganta - Treasurer

Deepthi Manohar Yada - Organizational Officer

Shravanya Kandi - Coordinator of Activities

Caixia Liu - Graphic Designer/Webmaster

Sanath Kishore Kadari - Public Relations Officer

Shaibu Ibrahim - Sports Coordinator



eiuastronomy

4
Posts

10
Members

Astronomy Club

Purpose: educate its members in astronomy and related subjects through observation, lectures, discussions, excursions, and by various other means and to share this knowledge with the greater community.



eiuastronomy



Left to right: Patrick Mallaney, Saul Garcia, Ryan Lay, Wylie Anderson, Aries Martinez, Dontae Milner, Lucas Hutton.

Observatory Open Houses Postponed

The Astronomy Club struggled to hold meetings during the 2020-21 school year due to COVID and considered going online for open houses.

According to Lucas Hutton, the club president, the EIU Observatory open houses, which used to be the last Friday of each month during the school year, are postponed until the threat of COVID has been eliminated.

The group is continuing its meetings by sitting 6 feet apart because they have 10 members.

"Currently we are working on implementing live streams for the observatory open house," Hutton said.

The Astronomy Club informs and educates students about the art and science of astronomy.

According to the EIU Astronomy Club website, they meet in Room 1110 in the physics department. A typical meeting is held on Wednesdays where members come together.

Donald Pakey, a physics professor and director of the observatory, is the adviser.

"We would meet in the physics tutor room every Wednesday and we would discuss current events in astronomy and aphysics and may even present some research pertaining to the subjects," Hutton said.

For example, Hutton presented research on "Rotational Analysis of Near-Earth Asteroids" at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in 2020.

The club is deeply passionate about astronomy and uses the observatory from time to time.

"If the night is clear we go out to the observatory and use the 16" and 10" telescopes to stargaze and take some astrophotography," he said.

The observatory, located southwest the baseball field, was completed in 2004 with funds donated by alumni and friends.

It houses a 16-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope that is computer controlled for both positioning and data acquisition. A second dome houses a solar telescope.

The open houses, when they are held, are intended for children and adults to learn more about space. Due to CDC guidelines, the club cannot host an open house this year.

As mentioned, the club is discussing the idea of livestreaming an open house in the future.

Members

President: Lucas Hutton

Wylie Anderson

Saul Garcia

Vice President: Michaela McBride

Aries Martinez

Secretary: Dontae Milner

Michel Inman

Treasurer: Patrick Mallaney

Matthew Hartung

Ryan Lay



Story by Erica Heldenbrand; Photo by Elizabeth Wood; Spread Design by Lauren Frick

uiu_dancers



10

Posts

8

Members

EIU Dancers

Purpose: The Eastern Illinois University Dancers are dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of dance in its many forms within the university and the community.



uiu_dancers



Dancers perform despite restrictions

The EIU Dancers, a dance repertoire company, realized it was important to have a show this year. The three co-directors said they believe the best part of dancing on the team is the bonds that they make with their teammates.

The three co-directors are Alex Mann, a junior majoring in history education with a minor and emphasis in theatre arts, Kali Bolton, a junior majoring in communication studies with a minor in marketing, and Rebekah Magee, a junior majoring in psychology with a minor in health and medical humanities.

It is crucial for the directors to interact with their teammates and host a show for EIU this year.

Last year, the team could not host its annual March events due to COVID-19, so it became important to host a show this year.

"Individually, not dancing for almost a year was awful," Magee said. "I really missed dance." The EIU Dancers have been a formal dance company since 1981 when Nancy Nordtvedt, then an associate professor in the physical education department, helped students create a team in order to show the community their choreography.

EIU Dancers, sponsored by the Doudna Fine Arts Center and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, typically rehearse from September to March and host the main event through March. The dance repertoire varies from modern dance, ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop and character pieces.

In September of 2019, EIU took the team off the RSO roster due to them only having six members, two of whom graduated in the 2018-2019 school year. Their goal was to reach 10 members in order to be considered a team again, and they achieved it.

However, after being considered a team again and working on their showcase "Sins and Virtues" for March, the show was canceled due to COVID-19.

At the end of January 2021, they received an email asking if they still wanted to do a show.

"This year, when they asked us, 'Do you want to have a show?' I wanted to be a part of that," Mann said. "Because one, it kind of felt like we were needed and that people wanted to watch us, but also, like everyone else has said, I just missed performing."

The team holds more of an appreciation for each other and for dancing because the show was canceled last year.

This year's two new members said they are a bit nervous since the start of rehearsals was on Feb. 4 and the team hopes to perform the showcase on the weekend of April 16.

"I think [the first rehearsal] went pretty successful," Bolton said. "You could tell everyone was very rusty."

They did not prioritize how well everyone did in the first rehearsal, though. Mann said the biggest goal was to thank all the dancers for coming to rehearsal and dancing with them through all the issues the team dealt with this year.

2020-21 EIU Dancers

Carisa Arroyo: *Dancer*

Kali Bolton: *Co-Director, Choreographer, Dancer*

Cherish Crosby: *Dancer*

Brianna King: *Dancer*

Rebekah Magee: *Co-Director, Choreographer, Dancer*

Alex Mann: *Co-Director, Choreographer, Dancer*

Emmerson O'Connor: *Dancer*

Carleigh Tessereau: *Dancer*



Back Row: Alex Mann, Cherish Crosby, Carleigh Tessereau
Front Row: Rebekah Magee, Emmerson O'Connor, Kali Bolton

Story by Trevor Toberman;
Spread Design by Lauren Frick;
Photos by Iyanna Stanton



eiu_entrep_club



4
Posts

10
Years Old

EIU Entrepreneurship Club

The goal of Eastern Entrepreneurs is to provide an opportunity to better understand and become involved in entrepreneurship/business networking. Through the organization's activities and events, student members will be able to further develop their skills and gain confidence in becoming a successful entrepreneur.

Join RSO



eiu_entrep_clup



Holly Olson, a junior majoring business management, and Antonio Chavez, a senior management major, both helped make an app called "Spike Shot," which donates funds to human trafficking relief efforts.



uiu_bestbuddies

2

Posts

Executive Members

Best Buddies

The mission of Best Buddies is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)! In our chapter, we primarily focus on creating long-lasting friendships between people with and without IDD!



uiu_bestbuddies



President Michal Treadway and Vice President Shannon Bahn both are passionate in their work of helping those with disabilities. Though they have struggled this year with COVID affecting their program, they remain positive.

EIU Best Buddies builds friendships

Originally published in The Daily Eastern News Feb. 26, 2021

Way back in 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, American philanthropist and member of the Kennedy family, founded the Special Olympics. Seeing how unjustly and unfairly people with disabilities were treated, she decided to take action by creating a space where they could safely participate in athletics by playing Olympic-type sports.

The creation of the Special Olympics eventually led to the creation of Best Buddies, an organization that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Eastern has its very own chapter of Best Buddies, providing Eastern students with the opportunity to create long-lasting friendships with and without IDD in the Charleston area.

Jennifer Stringfellow is the organization's adviser and a faculty member in the special education department here at Eastern. She explained that Best Buddies came along because people wanted a way to continue developing those relationships that people created while working together on the Special Olympics.

The organization communicates with community agencies in the area that specifically work with individuals with disabilities and helps them build relationships with Eastern students. Best Buddies does this by pairing up Eastern students with individuals with disabilities, making them what the organization calls "buddies."

The organization achieves its purpose through a variety of events, starting with a party inviting all members of the Charleston community.

"In the past, when we've been able to do it, we've had a party at the beginning of the year, in the fall," Stringfellow said. "We'll invite people from all around the area to come, and our students go. People just hang around and talk to each other and get to know each other and see if there's a good match."

If two people seem like a good match, the organization will pair them up. The expectation then becomes for the student and the individual with a disability to spend time together at least twice a month. They get to decide what they would like to do, so they can go to the movies, go to the park, or anything they find fun.

"All this is so you really truly get to know somebody," Stringfellow said. "That's really the purpose of Best Buddies. That you get to know someone really well."

Though a lot of Best Buddies' events and activities are done as partners or in small groups, they also host monthly parties to get everybody together. They would reserve a large space on campus, typically Andrews Hall's basement, and watch movies, do arts and crafts, or do other activities together.

The purpose of all these events is to get people

interacting with one another, which is both beneficial to the students and the individuals with disabilities.

"Part of that is to become comfortable with individuals with significant disabilities. Sometimes that's difficult for people, because it's just new and they're not used to it," Stringfellow said.

"We also try to engage these individuals, get them into a different atmosphere, and get them with young people. So much of their life is spent with either medical professionals or staff at their group homes."

COVID has affected a lot of the organizations on campus, and that includes Best Buddies. In order to keep the community safe, the organization decided it was best to remain inactive until the pandemic ends.

Especially considering that Best Buddies works with people who may be immunocompromised, the organization thought it would be best to take a pause on the events they regularly do until they can safely meet in person again.

Despite the struggles that the organization has faced this year, its members still find ways to continue building relationships with their buddies.

One way they are doing so is by putting together packages for their buddies and safely delivering it to the group homes where they reside.

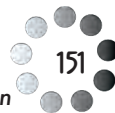
"They would go to the dollar store and get decks of cards, some more adult-type coloring books, posters, construction paper," Stringfellow said. "They put it together then they'll go to the door of the group home, knock on the door, and then go away. They try to have enough for everybody in the group home or say that it is for a specific person."

Also, this month, the organization has been involved in a big fundraiser for the Special Olympics called the Polar Plunge. The Polar Plunge is an event in which people run into a freezing cold body of water and raise money for charitable organizations.

Eastern has held its own Polar Plunge in the past as an in-person event, but because of COVID, that of course had to change. The 2021 Polar Plunge is being held virtually this year, helping to keep participants safe and allowing them to get creative with how they plunge.

Though Best Buddies is on hiatus now, they are ready to come back stronger than ever when the time comes. The organization is very passionate about what they do, and they hope to continue helping the community.

"It's really about being an example for acceptance and being an example for good in the world," Stringfellow said. "Everyone is included. Everyone is, first and foremost, a human being with wants and needs. Best Buddies is trying to fulfill that."



Story by Kyara Morales-Rodriguez Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photo by Iyanna Stanton



habitat4humanity_eiu

12

Posts

5

Members

Habitat for Humanity

We are committed to eliminating inadequate housing and raising awareness about the need for affordable housing throughout the world.



habitat4humanity_eiu



Back, left to right: Am Wilkins, Cesar Pina, Brenden Applegate
Front, left to right: Abby McIntyre, Angela Risinger



eiu_studgov

12
Posts

20
Members

Student Government

Purpose: We, the students of Eastern Illinois University, desiring to maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility, student rights, and to foster the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of students to the University and Community, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Student body of Eastern Illinois University.



eiu_studgov



Subodh Khanal (senator), Seth Yeakel (senator), Justin Richards (interim-speaker of the Student Senate; vice president of Academic Affairs), Payton Ade (senator), Skylar Coffey (vice president of Student Affairs)

Student Government meets remotely

The Student Government is working on putting on events and putting out information to combat its inability to meet quorum for most of the 2020-21 school year.

Often not enough senators attend the meeting to meet quorum (25 student senators) in spring semester, which leaves the Senate with an inability to approve RSOs and pass legislation, among other things.

Student Body President Noor Khamisani, a senior English major with a focus in professional writing, elaborated on the difficulty of not being able to function in the same capacity on top of handling the ongoing pandemic.

“As an organization, our hands are really tied on what we can do and what we can’t do...,” Khamisani said.

Fortunately, they are still putting on activities that they are proud of. “In Kahoots with the Prez” was recently held with President Glassman via Zoom.

These activities are exciting for the Eastern community so that students can still get to interact with one another while complying with COVID guidelines. This event went over well and the prospect of a similar event is currently being discussed.

This year the Student Government conducts weekly meetings over Zoom. It holds agenda-based meetings that include audience participation, and budget planning, presentations, bills, and budget

approval in the event that those are topics they are focused on that week.

The executive team consists of three staff members: Ceci Brinker, Shawn Hammers, and Anne Flaherty, as well as four students: Noor Khamisani, Michael Perri, Skylar Coffey, and Justin Richards.

As a four-year member of the Student Government, Khamisani has seen it thrive while serving in a number of different positions.

Others aren’t as lucky.

Freshman Sen. Payton Ade spoke about looking forward to being able to participate in the Senate when they are able to meet in person and have enough participation to function as a legislative body.

The group has not changed its requirement for quorum because it is based on a student-to-senator ratio.

Khamisani said they will not change the requirement.

“How we base quorum is 300 students per senator,” she said. “So it’s basically a total headcount of the student body so we can’t really change that,” she said.

She said they don’t want to put too much on senators' shoulders by asking them to represent an even bigger group of students they haven’t likely interacted with much because of the pandemic.

President

Noor Khamisani

Executive Vice President

Michael Perri

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Justin Richards

Vice President of Student Affairs

Skylar Coffey

Senators:

Seth Yeakel

Kassandra Amaya

Francesco Romano

Marcus Powell

Sierra Humphrey

Natalie Mitlying

Subodh Khanal

Constance Young

Paige Thing

Nidhi Patel

Payton Ade

Jasmine Yusef

Prabin Karki

Max Rue

Katelynn Alexander



Story by Maya Kurth; Photo by Corryn Brock; Spread Design by Lauren Frick

eiu_saac



12
Posts

47
Members

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Purpose: A student-athlete advisory committee (SAAC) is a committee made up of student-athletes assembled to provide insight on the student-athlete experience. The SAAC offers input on the rules, regulations and policies that affect student-athletes' lives.

Join RSO



eiu_saac



SAAC embraces COVID-19 challenges

COVID-19 has imposed many challenges for RSOs at Eastern. The challenge is overbearing for some, but not for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, according to SAAC Vice President Jonathan Burke.

Burke, a master's student studying sports administration, is a representative for the men's soccer team.

He said that the SAAC is enjoying the challenge of coming up with ways to stay in touch with each other and the community.

"I would say the biggest challenge with SAAC this year is adjusting to all virtual interaction," Burke said. "Since events we usually have with all the student-athletes cannot take place due to Covid. Although, many of us enjoy the challenge of thinking outside the box."

The SAAC is completely composed of student-athletes, with at least one representative from each team of EIU's 20 teams.

However, current SAAC members often encourage teams made up of many student-athletes to have two or three members.

According to SAAC adviser Cynthia Almon, some members are elected by coaches and others join because they feel the need to do their part as a student-athlete.

"Some of the coaches elect the officers but there are quite a few that join SAAC because they want to be a part of it and have heard about it from their teammates," Almon said.

According to Burke, those who have been involved with SAAC for a couple of years have been enjoying seeing some new members on their weekly Zoom calls.

"Some of us have been in SAAC for a couple of years and we know each other well," Burke said. "We also had a good number of new members that joined the call, so it was nice to see some new faces that were excited to get involved."

Almon said that the members of SAAC, despite the challenges they have faced recently, do a wonderful job of balancing SAAC responsibilities and being a student-athlete.

"As athletes, they know how to balance and

manage their time," Almon said. "Our meetings are only once a month, which is not a huge time commitment, so they are able to balance it fairly well."

The face-to-face involvement in the community for SAAC members has been exceptionally low this year, but the committee does not let that stop them from reading to local elementary students.

"We were able to get a list of teachers at Carl Sandburg Elementary who have allowed us to hop in from time to time to read to their class," Burke said. "The elementary classes have really enjoyed having us on Zoom calls and reading whatever the book the teacher chooses for us."

Reading to elementary students is a small act of kindness as compared to the past events that the SAAC has hosted.

According to Burke, one of the most successful events the SAAC hosted last year was their Jock and Roll event.

The event involved student-athletes coming up with videos and skits to perform in front of anyone who wished to attend in the MLK Grand Ballroom with the intention of raising money for the OVC Hoops for Heroes program.

"We raised a significant amount of money for the OVC Hoops for Heroes," Burke said. "This money is used to send veterans and people in the military to attend the OVC basketball tournament. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to organize it this year."

As for the spring semester, the SAAC plans to host events usually change on a week-to-week basis; however, they expect to have another social media campaign partnered with The Hidden Opponent.

"This is a nonprofit national organization that focuses on helping bring awareness to student-athletes mental health," Burke said.

The SAAC also plans to host a competitive community service competition that involves doing community service for a trophy.

"Whoever raises the most community service hours are awarded the EPIC (EIU Panthers in the Community) trophy and an engraved spot on the large EPIC trophy in the Academic Center which has teams and the years they have won," Burke said.

Executive Board:

President: Ashley Gilmore

Vice President: Jon Burke

Secretary: Meghan Donovan

Story by Autumn Schulz; Photo by Iyanna Stanton; Spread Design by Lauren Frick



univ_board_eiu



12

Posts

8

Members

University Board

Purpose: The goal of University Board is to provide an outstanding college experience for all students. We strive to ensure that the students of Eastern Illinois University enjoy their time here on campus by providing fun and memorable events for them to enjoy.



univ_board_eiu



Back row (from left to right): Haylee Brickey, Steven McDunn, Izzy Hernandez, Ashley Richardson
Front row (from left to right): Kara Price, Thalia Rouley, Yakelin Solis

Making memories despite the pandemic

The EIU University Board is attempting to make memories for students, despite a global pandemic. Unlike other RSOs on campus, UB continues to be active throughout the 2020-2021 school year, with many virtual and socially distanced events.

The EIU University Board consists of one chair, seven coordinators and four graduate assistants. More people will join the board as coordinators in the spring. The office is in the Student Activity Center in the Union.

The board is made up of several subcommittees that work together to produce many events on campus. All previous Homecomings, Welcome Back weekends, talent shows, annual concerts, etc., were put together by UB.

Weekly in-person events had a consistent presence on campus due to the UB’s activities. https://www.eiu.edu/slo/rso/rso_info.php?id=231

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The world had to adopt a new normal of staying home and avoiding others in the unprecedented times of COVID-19. This new normal did not stop the UB from trying to bring joy to EIU students.

“We saw it [the lockdown] as an opportunity to do online events,” said Haylee Brickey, board president.

Brickey said while the transition from larger in-person events to completely virtual events was challenging, she felt that it was worth it.

Brickey, a junior public relations major, said the UB wanted to remain active because its events are “providing opportunities for our students,” whether it be making new friends or just having joy.

So far this year, UB has hosted several virtual events, including a virtual fort contest where students would submit photos of their forts to be voted on, and a Valentine’s Day poetry contest.

As the vaccine is helping get the COVID-19 under control, UB is hoping to do more in-person events.

The board hosted a socially distanced Paint and Sip event in celebration of African American Heritage Month, where about 50 people attended.

Brickey says there will be more hybrid events to come.

Brickey said she hoped other RSOs on campus can bounce back from inactivity.

“Keep trying to get more people involved... plan ahead and find a balance between online and in-person events to keep students comfortable,” Brickey said.

Members

Haylee Brickey- Chair

Thalia Rouley- Graphic Designer

Kara Price- Graphic Designer

Ashley Richardson- Homecoming Coordinator

Steven McDunn- Spotlight Coordinator

Megan Kiselewski- Public Relations Coordinator
for fall and part of spring ‘21

Yakelin Solis- Public Relations Coordinator
rest of spring ‘21

Izzy Hernandez- Special Events Coordinator

Story by Lucas Grindley; Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photo by Elizabeth Wood



Walsworth



Greek Life

News 2020-2021

September

13 - A virtual Bid Day ended fall 2020 recruitment. About 70 women were invited to join sororities.

November

14 - Alpha Phi, Alpha Sigma Tau, Sigma Kappa and Sigma Sigma Sigma sororities have been quarantined at various times in the semester in their chapter houses due to members testing positive or being exposed to students who had tested positive.



ROW 1: Linda Scott, Georgia Warren, Thelma McDowell, Carol A. Gilchrist. ROW 2: Denise Davis, Ethel West, Cassandra Wilson, Valerie Cloud. ROW 3: Gloria Peterson, Linda Rucker, Ulestine Watson—Faculty sponsor.

Celebrating 50 years on campus

Delta Sigma Theta celebrated their 50th anniversary in February with a week of online events and 180 plus person zoom meeting with alumnus and their founders.

Imani Walker, a senior majoring in neuroscience and president of Delta Sigma Theta, said the event turnout was great and that they hosted events that went with Delta Sigma Theta's philanthropy as well as black history month.

"We try to do something involving physical and mental health, education, economics something like that," Walker said. "We try to implement those values and we also tried to like bring some correlation for what's happening now, so we had a night where we talked about black history and then also the black experience,"

Shawn Peoples, the advisor for Delta Sigma Theta said 4 of the 10 charter members, or those who stated Delta Sigma Theta at Eastern, had spoken at the event. Peoples added that it never gets old to hear their story.

"I think my first anniversary was the 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and now 50," Peoples said, "and so I think it never gets old and never gets old to hear them tell their story to hear how they had to come together in 1971."

It began with ten girls: Valerie Cloud, Denise Davis,

Carol Gilchrist, Thelma McDowell, Cloria Peterson, Linda Rucker, Linda Scott, Georgia Warren, Ethel West, and Cassandra Wilson, who wanted to make a difference.

But, none of them really knew much about sororities.

Linda Scott said Valerie Cloud was the first to bring up the idea of joining a sorority.

"I was the first in my family to go to collage and I didn't know much about sororities, what they were, or what they did, or what the purpose of them were," Scott said. "Valerie was probably the most knowledgeable out of our group because she had the most siblings who had gone to college. So, she was talking to us about starting a sorority and the different ones."

Cloud introduced them to Delta Sigma Theta and their values because a few of her cousins had been a part of the chapter. Soon they were looking into different sororities but, Delta Sigma Theta stuck out to them.

"But we kept coming back to Delta," Scott said, "there was something about Delta that just came to my mind, and I was talking to Valerie, and I said, 'you know what, I would like to be a part of

an organization like that."

Once they had decided on a sorority, Cloud started the chartering process and drove from Charleston to Chicago to meet with the regional director and Midwest regional director to see what she needed to do to start a chapter at Eastern.

As she started the process, Cloud didn't have an issue finding ten girls to join.

"When we started, in 69', there were only 60 black students on campus, so it wasn't very hard to know who was whom and [...] we were all friends, maybe not close friends, but acquaintances," Scott said, "because when you have a small group of a minority on a campus it's not hard to find out who looks like you."

Scott added it didn't feel like a small group because it felt like an extended family.

While Cloud didn't have much trouble getting girls to join, she did have a hard time finding an advisor.

"I did not want just anyone being our advisor because there was another staff member at EIU, who wanted to be our advisor, but she wanted to pledge AKA and I said that was not going to work," said Cloud, "if she was not already a Delta or was not interested in pledging Delta, I did not want her as an advisor."

One day, Dr. Ridgway, Cloud's anatomy instructor, pulled her aside and told her his wife had been a Delta, but it would be tough getting her to be their advisor because she didn't have a good experience when she had pledged.

"I kept going to her and kept going to her, and she kept saying, 'I don't know if I want to do it.' I went to Dr. Ridgway and said, 'Dr. Ridgway she

doesn't want to do it,' and he said, 'don't give up, don't give up, don't give up,'" Cloud said, "so I enlisted Gloria and Linda to go with me, so we went, and we talked to her, I think we had to talk to her two or three times, and she agreed."

A year after they found an advisor, Cloud said they hit a roadblock as one of the regional managers didn't want them to found a chapter at Eastern.

Instead, the regional manager wanted them to go to U of I or Terra Haute to pledge.

Cloud only had a semester left before she graduated and pushed getting a Delta Sigma Theta chapter started at Eastern.

The Midwest regional manager eventually agreed with Cloud and allowed them to create a chapter, and the first African American sorority was founded.

"After a year, I was thoroughly happy because I was tired of driving between Chicago and Charleston to get everything together," Cloud said. "The only thing is we were supposed to be chartered in January, but they had a big snowstorm and

that pushed our charter back to February 12."

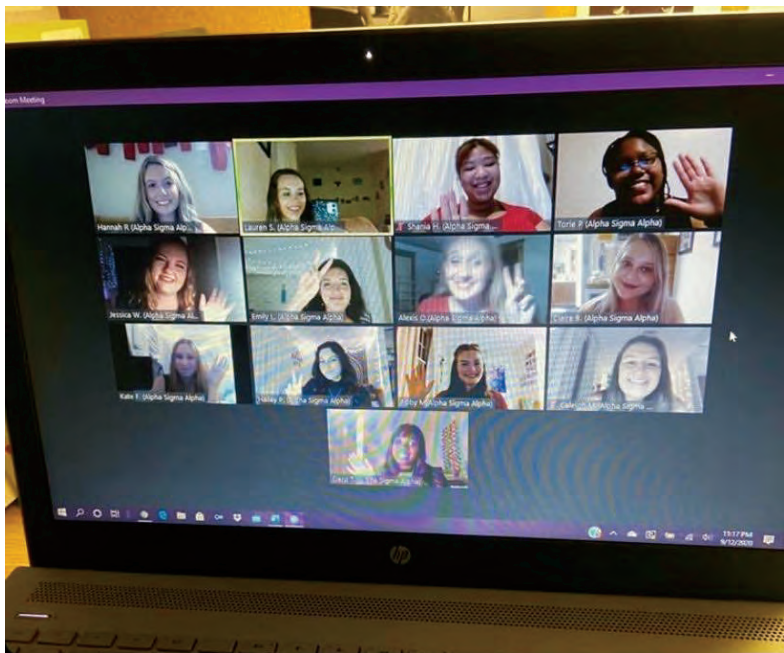
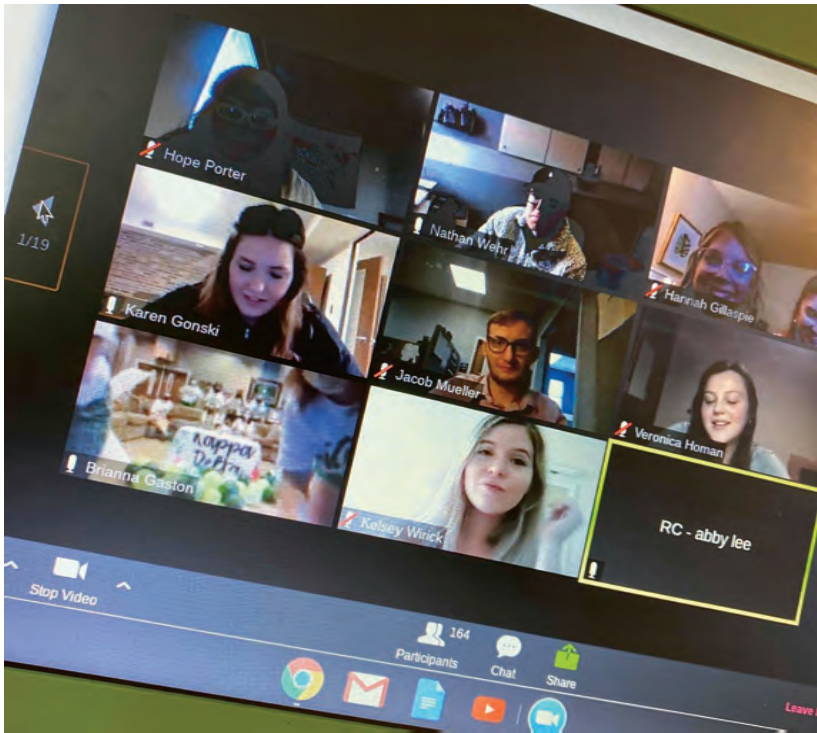
Even though they faced many difficulties, Scott said they persevered as a sorority.

"Even though we had the racial discrimination, that was pretty prominent on campus, we persevered as a sorority, we had fundraisers, we had mixers, we had all kind of things that we did, all different kinds of projects we did, we didn't let that stop us from persevering and being successful," Scott said.

"We still went downtown to the square, we still passed out our flyers, we still collected food for the community, even though we had all of those challenges, it did not stop us from persevering as a sorority to be successful."



Walsworth



Recruitment goes virtual

Even though the pandemic managed to bring most of the world to a standstill, recruitment fought on this year at Eastern.

In the fall, no one from Greek life knew what to expect.

By the end of the process, every chapter managed to hand out bids and welcome new members.

The different sorority chapters on campus decided to conduct recruitment completely through Zoom. This allowed COVID guidelines to be followed and ensured the safety of the potential new members (PNMs) and chapter members.

Fraternity chapters took a more standard approach.

Noah Hile, a member of Sigma Pi and a sophomore majoring in secondary education, said his fraternity was able to recruit in person.

“Recruitment for us was still fully in person,” Hile said. “We made sure to follow the usual protocol like masks, social distancing, and minimizing the amount of people at each recruitment event.”

Fraternities were able to do this because fewer men go through recruitment than women on Eastern’s campus, which makes this option unavailable to sororities.

The change to virtual recruitment brought mixed feelings to the women in different chapters.

Caleigh Miller, an Alpha Sigma Alpha and a sophomore majoring in sports management, shared her thoughts about the experience: “Recruitment went smooth, but I don’t think you really get to know the girl over Zoom. I think that when having it in person you get to really connect with the PNM.”

Meanwhile, Krista Cochran, a Tri Delta and a sophomore majoring in secondary education, thought the virtual format helped them connect to some girls.

“We were still able to make real connections with PNMs even though it was all virtual,” Cochran said. “It gave girls who were more shy a chance to shine because it’s not as nerve wracking to be behind a screen.”

While there were upsides and downsides to this situation, the end result was the same: students were able to find their home in Greek life and start their life in college as fraternity men and sorority women.

Once the pandemic has receded, the Panhellenic Council plans to return recruitment to its normal format.

Taylor Comer, a senior majoring in criminal sociology and member of Alpha Sigma Tau, loads up her car to take donations from her sorority to the Coles County Animal Shelter.



Greeks adjust to online format

As things moved online, Eastern’s Greek community had to find new ways to host philanthropy events that would comply with the restrictions.

Nathan Wehr, the director of sorority and fraternity programs, said chapters had to get creative with how they were able to host philanthropies.

“Chapters started using social media platforms to host events and raise funds for their philanthropies” Wehr said. “They also hosted live video streams since group sizes were restricted due to COVID-19 policies.”

While COVID restrictions were in place, fraternities and sororities had to limit philanthropy events to 25 people or less in an outdoor area during mitigation phase 1 and 50 people or less during phase 4. During mitigation phase 1, philanthropies

couldn’t include food items and were strongly encouraged to be hosted online.

Ambrosia Pascual, a sophomore nursing major and vice president of Philanthropy, Ritual Chair, and House Manager for Delta Zeta, said it was hard planning virtual philanthropies to help support those with hearing loss or issues with speech.

“Planning a philanthropy during COVID has had its ups and downs,” Pascual said. “In the past, we’ve had philanthropies such as Hamburgers for Hearing, The Turtle Bowl, Taco Tuesday, and a fondue bar called Loco for Cocoa. Nowadays, we cannot do in person philanthropies due to COVID regulations.”

Instead of their usual philanthropies, Pascual said she



Jackson Wiseman, a senior sports management major and member of Sigma Pi, and Dipo Ojo, a senior marketing major and member of Sigma Pi, work on cutting strips into the edges of their blanket during Greek Week. Ojo said Greek Week is different, but he thought it was a creative way to keep Greek Week and allows the Greek community to bond. Wiseman added that he thought it was a great alternative to the regular Greek Week, given COVID-19 guidelines.

Greeks give back:

Annual Greek Week focuses on community

When the spring semester began, Eastern’s Greek community was quiet compared to the usual buzz of preparing for Greek Week.

Hanna Gillaspie, an admissions counselor and organized events for Greek Week, said planning for Greek Week was difficult because it was so different, but it wasn’t hard to let go of the traditional activities.

“Obviously, I love the traditional Greek Week, but I knew this year that wasn’t going to be right,” Gillaspie said. “It was difficult making changes, but because it was so dramatic, it wasn’t difficult to let



Tri Delta’s sorority sisters pose for a group photo with their Greek Week masks on. Greek Week was held online, besides a few socially distanced in-person events, where sororities and fraternities could participate in TikTok challenges and post selfies in the Greek Week masks.

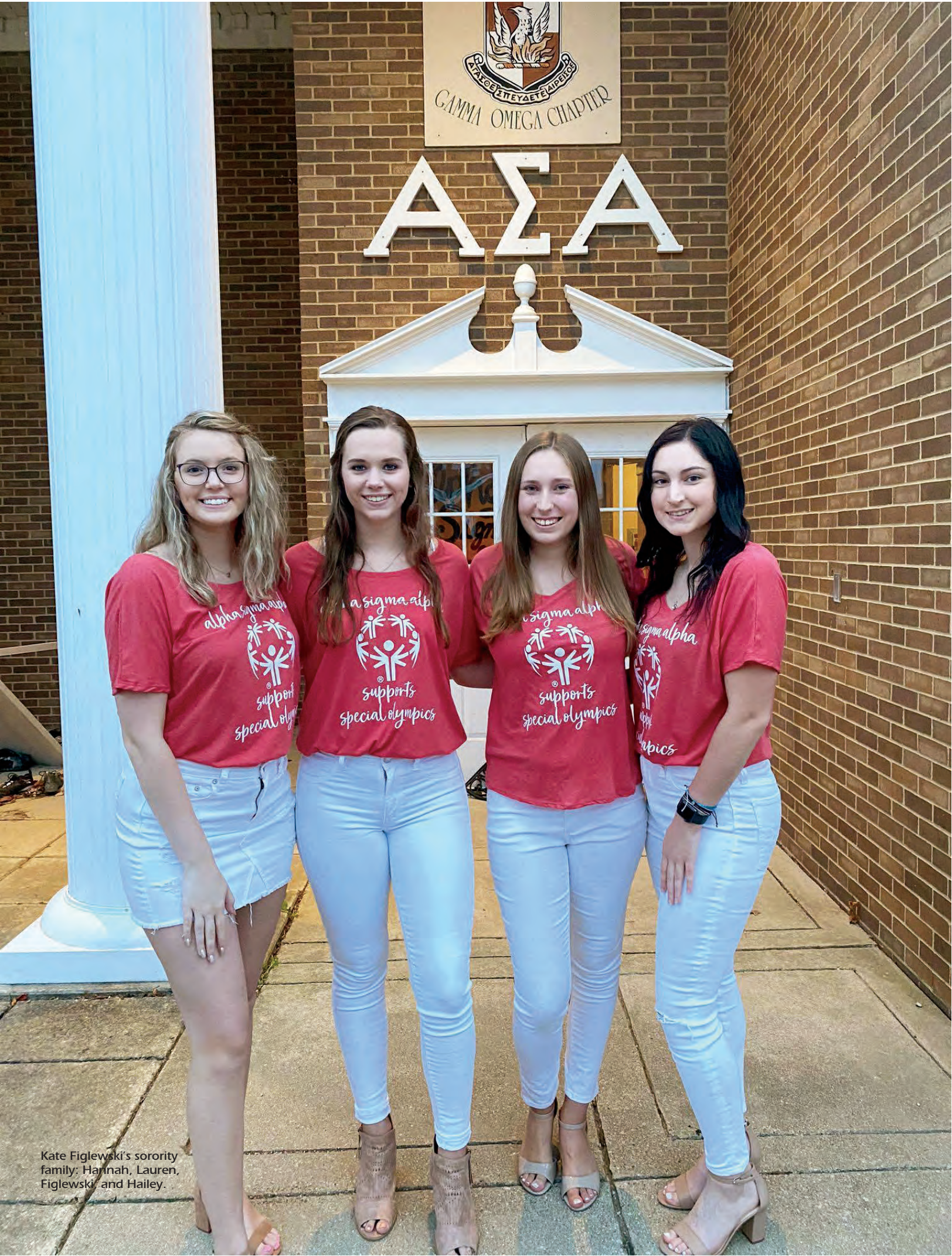
go of the traditional because I knew this is what the community would need and what the university would expect of us being leaders on campus.”

Megan Morecraft, a sophomore majoring in hospitality and tourism and a member of Delta Delta Delta, said that while she hasn’t been able to participate in the normal Greek Week events, she misses the excitement it brings.

“I do miss is everyone preparing for the events and all of the spirit it brings,” said Morecraft.

Gillaspie added it was hard trying to come up with socially

Walsworth



Kate Figlewski's sorority family: Hannah, Lauren, Figlewski, and Hailey.

Sisterhood: a bond for life

A student writes about how sisterhood has impacted her

Growing up I never had any sisters. I have an older brother and while he is one of my best friends, I feel like I missed a lot by not having a sister through most of my childhood, especially an older one to guide me.

When I was 10 or 11, my parents had two more children and my wishes were granted. I had two younger sisters, but it was still difficult to create a strong bond and ever become close with them since the age gap is so large.

According to an article from HuffPost, having a sister is beneficial in many ways. It states, "A 2010 study published in the Journal of Family Psychology showed having a sister can boost your mental health and self-esteem. In particular, researchers from Brigham Young University found sisters help protect their siblings from 'feeling lonely, unloved, guilty, self-conscious and fearful.'"

Even though I have biological sisters I feel as though I never got this feeling only because of our age gap.

Coming into college I never planned to join a sorority. After first semester of freshman year, I decided to check out one of the houses and immediately loved it. My sorority, Alpha Sigma Alpha, has given many wonderful sisters, but perhaps two of the most meaningful relationships that come with being in a sorority is the relationship with your big and your little.

I believe most sorority girls agree that getting a big and eventually a little is one of the most exciting parts about being in a sorority.

Your big is a woman who joined the sorority before you and serves as a mentor during your new member process and beyond.

When you become a big, you do the same for your little. Some people are very close with their big and/or little and



Kate Figlewski and her little, Hannah.

some are not, but I am lucky enough to have a big and a little I am close with in different ways and they have given me the sisterly bond I have always craved.

My relationship with my big and little grew in different ways, and as I said I am close to them in different ways.

My big, Lauren, was the first woman in my sorority who stood out to me.

She was the one who helped me come out of my shell, made sure I knew what was going on, and encouraged me to take on leadership positions. She has helped my confidence grow and I truly see her as the big sister I never had.

Lauren and I do not talk every day, but I know that she is always just a text or phone call away. Lauren is my role model, and she is always there to bring me up when I am down. No matter how long I go without seeing her, we always have so much fun when we hangout and it is like nothing has changed.

My relationship with my little is different because of the fact that she is more than my little, she is my absolute best friend.

I knew from the moment I met Hailey I wanted her as my little, and to be completely honest I didn't think she would choose me because everyone wanted her. I'll never forget the excitement I felt when I found out I was her big.

We did not become super close immediately, but after a few months we started to hangout more and now there is not a day that goes by that we do not talk. Hailey is someone I know will always celebrate the good times with me, and she is my shoulder to cry on during the bad. She encourages me to be the best version of myself and I will forever cherish how close we have become.

I am thankful to have found a sisterly bond with Lauren and Hailey. To me this sisterly bond feels like a sense of comfort and safety knowing that they will always be there for me and that I can come to them without fear of judgment. I wouldn't be where I am today without them, and I hope everyone can find this type of bond with someone in her life.

Story by Kate Figlewski; Photos submitted by Kate Figlewski; Page design by Elizabeth Wood



News 2020-2021

November

15 - Joe Orozco, an assistant football coach, died. Adam Cushing, head coach, said he was heartbroken. Orozco had come from Northwestern with Cushing two years ago.

December

12 - Mack Smith tied the NCAA Division I record for consecutive games with a made 3-pointer at 88 straight during the men’s basketball game against Western Illinois University in Lantz Arena. The Panthers defeated WIU 92-88 thanks to six free throws at the end of the game. Smith, a senior guard from Indianapolis, finished with 13 points.

January

11 - Tony Romo, who threw for 7,816 yards and 82 touchdowns during three years (2000-02) at Eastern, was an FCS All-American in all three seasons and won the Walter Payton Award given to the top player in FCS following the 2002 season, will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame next December.

March

- 1** - The men’s cross country team won the 2020 Ohio Valley Conference championship in Clarksville, Tennessee, edging Eastern Kentucky for the title. Head coach Erin Howarth was named the OVC Men’s Coach of the Year, her second straight honor after winning OVC Women’s Coach of the Year in 2019.
- 4** - The contract of Jay Spoonhour, the men’s basketball head coach for nine years, was not renewed. This season the team was 9-18 overall and 6-10 in the OVC, finishing in 10th place in the conference and missing the conference tournament. Spoonhour was the 14th head coach in program history.

April

1 - Marty Simmons, on the staff at Clemson, was introduced as the new men’s head basketball coach. Simmons previously coached at Evansville-his alma mater, SIUE and Wartburg in Iowa. Simmons, a Lawrenceville, Illinois, native, was Illinois Mr. Basketball in 1983

Athletes adjusts to 'new normal'

COVID-19 has been ravaging the world for just a little over a year. Mask mandates, endless Zoom meetings, lockdowns, and school closures all became our new normal. Sports are definitely not back to normal, but they give us a sense of what life used to be.

The pandemic has changed sports at Eastern. Each team is different when it comes to how many times a week they test their players and staff.

Football is considered a high-risk sport, meaning the athletes and staff get tested twice a week.

Baseball and softball are considered a medium risk sport, since they are played outside and involve less contact than some other sports, so they are only required to test their athletes one to two times a week.

Each testing schedule is purely based on what their game schedule is for that week. All teams are also required by the NCAA to test 72 hours before a game.

If someone does happen to test positive, the teams follow the guidelines set by Eastern, which requires mandatory 10 days of isolation, contact tracing and back-to-back COVID testing until they are cleared.

However, they are not just thrown back into the game; they must meet with various doctors to make sure their bodies are ready for play.

Before COVID, teams were able to sit freely on the buses when traveling. Add COVID in the mix, and there are now strict seating charts with everyone spaced out as much as possible.

Masks are also worn 24/7 in hotels and on the bus. There are no more after game meals in restaurants either. The meals are now provided in to-go boxes and taken back to their hotel rooms.

Adjusting to life with the COVID pandemic has been difficult for everyone. For many of the coaches have found their hardest adjustments was not knowing what was next for their team, simply the unknown variable.

For athletes, their major adjustment was the battle of constant testing, practices, and online classes. It can be stressful sometimes, but we're

all in this together.

Athletes still participate in team weightlifting and practices.

Luckily the teams can break up into smaller groups when practicing, indoors and outdoors.

For weightlifting, since it is indoors, the athletes are required to wear their masks and social distance. Smaller groups are used. Sanitization protocols are also in place.

Some athletes have taken the challenges of the year to help them move forward.

Gunner Smith, a redshirt first baseman, said he was sad that the season got cut short but was very thankful that he got to spend that time with his family, something that is not usual for student athletes.

Senior outfielder Dane Toppel said he had to change his original plans. Toppel had decided to come back to EIU for a master's degree and continue playing baseball with the Panthers.

"Just an obstacle," said baseball coach Jason Anderson. "It's life."

Softball coach Tara Archibald tried to be positive.

"Learn to turn lemons into lemonade," she said.

Since the teams were broken into smaller groups, they got to bond with teammates like never before, which has been a blessing.

Recruiting has changed the most drastically. All recruiting meetings are done over Zoom, with neither party meeting until the recruits committed to EIU.

Football coach Adam Cushing said he's spent more time with recruits and their parents more than he ever has. Coaches have also been very adamant about bringing the 'EIU experience' to their recruits as much as possible.

Coaches and players, especially seniors, while sad to see fewer people in the stands, agreed they were glad parents are still able to be involved in their games, especially.

They also said that while they know what's the best for the safety of the team, staff and the community, they are looking forward to when they can have a full stadium again.

Story by Destiny Mitchell



Tara Archibald, head coach for softball, gives tips to the batter before the pitch is thrown. Mask-wearing was part of the COVID protocols for athletes.

Esports team in second year

Esports is a club in which players compete in various games across different systems. The club started recently in 2019 when the Esports arena was made with coaches for each game.

For the esports club, there are not any qualifications to be a part of a team. You can be a beginner and the coaches and teammates will teach you how to play.

Playing in esports is fun because of the new things you learn and the bonds you create.

Grant Sims, the president of the esports team, said the experience has changed since the pandemic happened.

"Esports has changed with the pandemic because we no longer meet in the arena for our monthly meetings. Instead, we meet on Discord and do virtual presentations."

The games that are played are CSGO, Super Smash Brothers, Smite, League of Legends, Overwatch, Call of Duty, Rainbow Six,

and FIFA. They all compete with different schools and leagues.

With competitions, there are different ways they are done with each game but the main way it works is a team-based competition. Each player or team plays against another from a different school.

One of the competitions was held in Champaign and it was a tournament. Players would compete in Smash Brothers and the winner would move on to the next round while the loser went in the loser's bracket.

The players of the club as of now can play computer games in the arena with social distancing, but Sims says it differs when it comes to competitions.

"Most teams compete fully online and not together in the arena, which is something we didn't do last year."

Nevertheless, it is a way to have fun playing games with other people.

Photos by Elizabeth Wood; Story by Sofia Turek; Spread Design by Lauren Frick

The cost to keep student athletes safe

The NCAA's guidelines regarding COVID-19 have forced Eastern's athletic department to stay on top of its testing of student athletes. Each test administered to an athlete costs between \$20 and \$40. By the end of the school year, it is estimated that 4,000 to 5,000 will have been given.

Three ways athletes get tested:

- 1.** PCR anterior nares testing: the nasal swab performed by the EU athletic training staff and analyzed by the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center lab.
- 2.** Antigen testing: Rapid testing nasal swab performed and analyzed by the EIU athletic training staff
- 3.** PCR saliva testing (SHIELD testing): performed by the SHIELD testing team at EIU, with assistance from EIU athletic training staff for football—used almost exclusively in the spring semester.





Lariah Washington, a sophomore majoring in business management, jumps high above Northern Illinois players to try and make a score.



Dane Toppel, a graduate student majoring in sports administration, passes up a pitch during a home game against Murray State on March 9.

How often they get tested:

High risk sports (football, men and women’s soccer): 100%, everyone on the team gets tested once a week in-season, 50% of the team every two weeks in the off season

Basketball: Everyone (100% of tier one), three times a week in-season

Medium risk sports: Half of the team gets tested every two weeks, with screening. Everyone on the team within 72 hours of travel.

Low risk sports: half the team every two weeks and screening. Everyone gets tested within 72 hours of travel



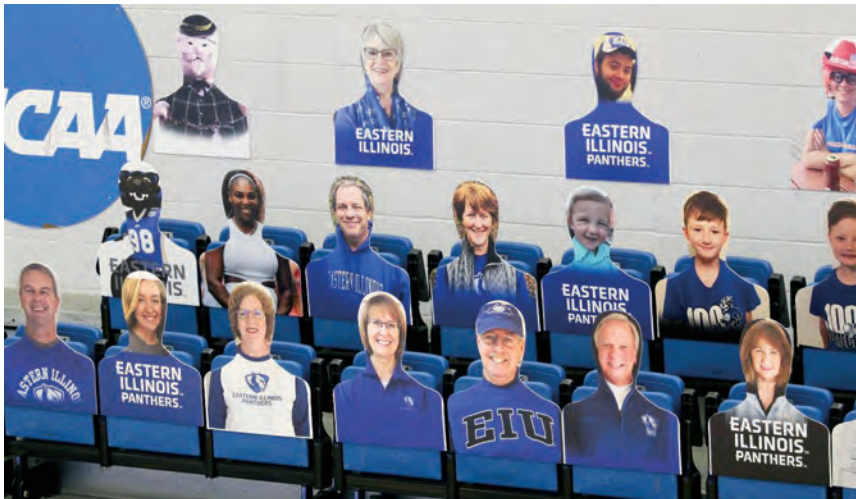
Story by Elizabeth Wood; Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photos by Elizabeth Wood and Ashanti Thomas



Fans at a women's tennis match.



Fans at a baseball game,.



Cardboard cutouts were placed on the ground bleachers. They were paid for by fans,



Fans at a soccer game social distance and wear masks.

Walsworth



Fans sit in the stands to watch a home track meet on April 9th.

Panther Pride ... *From a Distance*

Once the 2020 fall semester began, one thing was clear to sports fans: there would be no fans at any of the fall games.

While most had moved to the spring semester, like football, basket ball, volleyball, and swimming were still able to compete with strict guidelines.

Events were live streamed, and only a limited amount of the media was allowed in, with strict social distancing, and the media couldn't be on the ground floor of Lantz Stadium. For swimming, fans and the media weren't allowed to come in.

In the Lantz Stadium, fans could buy cardboard cut outs of themselves to be put in the ground floor bleachers, and the sounds of a crowd were played over the speakers during basketball games.

Later in the fall semester, a limited amount of fans were allowed in to watch the games.

In the spring, fans were able to come watch sporting events, but they had to follow CDC guidelines with social distancing and mask wearing, even if the sport was outside.

Tickets were limited for football, and students had to enter a raffle to win a ticket to go to a game, but that didn't stop students, parents, and fans from watching behind the fence.



Maddie Missey traveled to watch her boyfriend play at the February 4th home game. She said the tickets got mixed up, so she came to watch from the fence outside of O'Brian Field.

Story and photos by Elizabeth Wood; Spread Design by Lauren Frick

Mr. Record Books

ElU senior breaks NCAA 3-point record

Mack Smith, a senior majoring in health communication, has obtained what he's been chasing for most of his college career: the NCAA record for the consecutive games with a 3-pointer made.

Smith broke the record on December 30, 2020. Now, he reflects on his journey.

Smith found out about the record from his teammate, Cam Burrell. Burrell showed Smith the home pamphlet book, which had the accolades, from there Smith began to chase the record.

Smith said there were times where he had felt worried he wouldn't break the NCAA record.

"I always felt like I could keep it going, I knew I was going to break it, but it was a couple games where I felt like it was about to come to an end," said Smith. "But off the court, there was no pressure because I didn't like to talk about it... I felt like I was going to jinx myself if I began to talk about it."

Smith added that there were a few games his junior and senior year where he felt worried that the record would come to an end.

Although he had games where he struggled shooting from the three-point mark, Smith had many successful nights. He added his teammates assisted him with his shots and how they would keep tabs on his record.

"My teammates would make sure that they would get rebounds, set screens for me, get me open and get me passes at the right time," he said. "So, I didn't really know what number I was on throughout the process, but Josiah did. Like I would hit a three and he would come back and

say, 'that's 78,' 'that's 79,' or he would say it in the timeout. And now everyone calls me 'Mr. Record Books' because of Josiah."

Coach Jay Spoonhour said that the team did a good job trying to give Smith shots.

"People definitely tried their best to keep him from getting open looks," Spoonhour said. "Our team was pretty good at moving the ball, and I think Mack's teammates did a good job of finding him."

The night Smith broke the record versus Eastern Kentucky University, his and his fellow peers' emotions were running high.

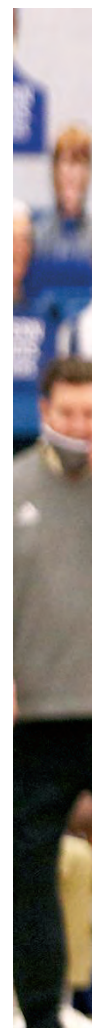
"When I broke it at ECU, I screamed, and I normally don't be screaming like that," Smith said, "but when I broke it, I just let all my emotions out, and it was a big relief off my shoulders."

Assistant coach Matt Bringman said he had celebrated when Smith broke the record.

"I was so happy for him and proud of him," Bringman. "I jumped up and screamed as soon as it went in. I know it was a weight off his shoulders you could just see it being lifted from him. I just gave him a big hug and told him I love him and I'm so proud of him."

Despite Smith's celebration, the team ended up losing the conference matchup against ECU, 69-61.

Smith said that his teammates poured a little bit of water on him, but because they had lost there was not a big celebration for his accomplishment. He added there were parts of the night that were meaningful to him, like





having his family members in attendance.

“When they called the media timeout, my family was there,” Smith said, “and I just blew a kiss to them and just kept it going from there and played the rest of the game.”

He added that Cory Bradford, former record holder, had come to the game and later reached out to him to congratulate him on breaking the record.

Despite the loss of the game, despite the trial and error, Smith felt pride in his accomplishment.

“It was like something to be proud of, all my hard work and dedication from when I started playing basketball, it all just paid off. It’s still a lot of work to be done, but at that moment, for that record, for that process, through that journey, it just paid off,” he said.



Story by Brysen Carr; Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photos by Sandra King

Women's Basketball

Women's basketball one of the first Panther teams to return to competition

The world of sports has been affected the most in these troubling times. Once sports got back a few months after the pandemic has started, the new rules have most likely changed the way sports will be conducted in the future.

The women’s basketball team was one of the first sports to begin its competitive season. It ended with an 11-14 record overall and 9-12 in the OVC, losing the first game in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament to the top-seed University of Tennessee-Martin 56-65.

Taylor Steele, a senior guard from Highland, Indiana, said the way the team travels changed over the course of the season.

“It has definitely been different,” she said. “We haven’t been able to eat at restaurants so that’s been a bummer, but it hasn’t been too bad. The hotels are taking a lot of precautions, which is nice.”

Steele, a biological science major who plans to attend dental school, averaged 4 points per game.

Grace McRae, a senior forward from Melbourne, Australia, said she has had various roles during her playing career.

“I think for me it was coming to different girls from different high schools and been like their leading player from high school and I already came in as a role player,” she said.

McRae is majoring in communication disorders science.

The team was coached by Matt Bollant, in his fourth season with the Panthers.

2020-21 Roster

Kira Arthofer	Taylor Steele
Jordyn Hughes	Alana Vinson
Briana Mishler	Haley Cameron
Jacqueline Maulucci	Lariah Washington
Katie Pace	Morgan Litwiller
Paige Schumann	Parker Stafford
Grace McRae	Abby Wahl



Center Abby Wahl, a junior majoring in elementary education, scores a point for Eastern against Northern Illinois University during a basketball game on Dec. 4. The Panthers lost 82-72.



Guard Lariah Washington, a senior management major, and center Abby Wahl, a junior majoring in elementary education, high-five each other while on the court.



Players, coaches and managers sit on the sidelines 6 feet apart to adhere to the COVID-19 regulations.



Guard Briana Mishler, a senior biological sciences major, dribbles the ball past the opposing team.

Story by Sofia Turek; Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photos by Elizabeth Wood and Ashanti Thomas

Panther Swim



A personal story:

An unexpected senior season

It's fitting that my 16th and final year swimming would be the hardest season yet, just not in the way I imagined.

I wanted to soak up every second I spent in the pool, and reflect on the countless hours I have poured into the sport. But in a way, I don't want to remember anything from this season.

Facing an uncertain season outlook due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Summit League Conference meet was not guaranteed at the start of the season. And if there was, we didn't know when it would happen. We were also facing an entire fall semester without competing against other teams, which is most of the fun about swimming.

My senior year swimming for EIU has been a challenging one, filled with many uncertainties and a changing schedule. We were able to swim a couple of meets in the fall, but were without fans (mostly our parents) and with so much focus on COVID protocols, it drew my focus away from the meet at times.

The protocols included waiting in a classroom away from the pool until it was time to swim my event. I am someone who wants to be behind the blocks well before my event to prepare and focus.

These changes are minor, and are understandably in place, but it's just something I'm not used to and can make a big difference in the pool. I swim the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke, and while my swims have not been up to speed thus far, I am optimistic for the end of the season.

It was even tougher on my parents, who have come to almost every meet of mine in college, who had to watch my races online. The meets are live-streamed, so my parents would be texting me throughout the meet about my race, as well as others on the team.

Not everything is bad, however, as we do plan on having our conference meet in late April, as opposed to mid-February. I am happy to be swimming for a couple more months, but I would be lying if I said I wasn't looking forward to not having off-season workouts that usually take place in the spring.

The adjusted schedule has forced our training to shift backwards. Usually, the hardest part of the season is over winter break, where we train the hardest and swim longer. Now, those practices will take place in early March. It's an interesting dynamic for the team and myself. Like I said before, we're used to relaxing throughout the spring as we look towards the end of the school year.

I have embraced every obstacle that has come my way, willing to do whatever it takes to finish my last season strong. I commend all of my teammates and coaches this season for staying tough, and willing to stick together through all the turmoil. It's only going to make that final swim on April 18 that much sweeter.

SUMMIT LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

The men's and women's swim teams wrapped up the 2021 season on April 17 with three Panther swimmers taking home medals at the Summit League Championships at the Hulbert Aquatic Center in West Fargo, North Dakota.

Miguel Turcios took first in the men's 200 backstroke as he edged teammate Andrew Crouse in the race. Turcios' time of 1:49.69 set the school record.

Kennedy Darensbourg earned a bronze medal in the women's 1,650 free with the second best time in school history.

As a team the men placed fourth at the championships, with the women finishing fifth.

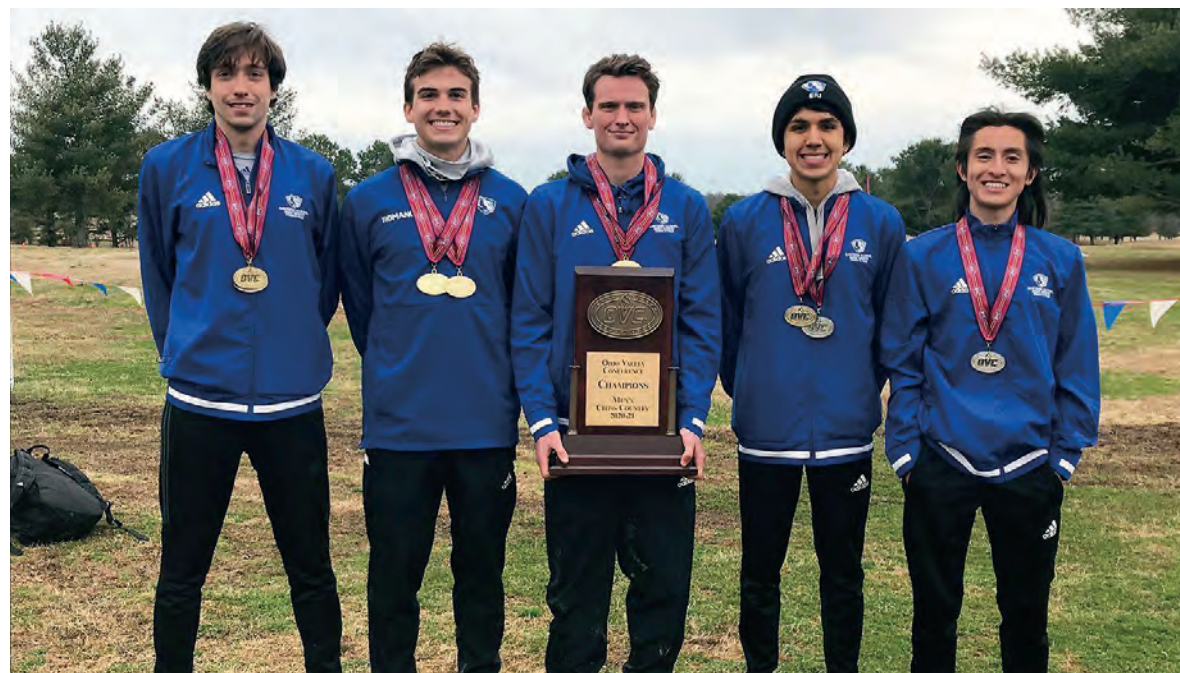


Race Archibald

Story by Race Archibald; Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photos by Sandra Kling



Cross country men win OVC



The men's cross country won 2020 Ohio Valley Conference Championship held March 1, 2021, in Clarksville, Tennessee, edging Eastern Kentucky for the title. The women's team placed third.

Despite delayed season, teams excel in conference meets

In a season that started with a fall season wiped out, the Eastern Illinois men's cross country won the 2020 Ohio Valley Conference Championship March 1 in Clarksville, Tennessee, as Eastern's top five finishers in the race were named All-OVC and the team's coach, Erin Howarth, was named OVC men's Coach of the Year.

Redshirt junior Dustin Hatfield placed fifth place to lead the Panthers, followed by junior Franky Romano in (6th), Jaime Marcos (8th), Marcus Skinner (10th) and Richie Jacobo (10). Adam Swanson (20th) and David Thompson (30th) rounded out the rest of the performances.

The women's team came in third behind Eastern Kentucky and Belmont. Redshirt junior Kate Bushue and senior Maggie McPherson finished third and fourth and they, along with Avani Flanagan (6th) and MacKenzie Aldridge (11th) took first team All-OVC honors. Kylie Decker took 30th and Chloe Irish finished 33rd.

In the fall, the meets at ISU, Louisville and Bradley were canceled, and the championships were postponed till spring. On Jan. 23, the teams competed at Southeast Missouri State (men placed third of five teams and women had only five runners) and at a home meet Feb. 6 (both men and women won their meets) as warm-ups for the March 1 championships.

Scholarly honors

Redshirt junior Kate Bushue, a kinesiology, sports & recreation major with a 3.84 GPA, was named a USTFCCCA All-Academic selection.

Both teams earned All-Academic Team honors. The women's team GPA was 3.83, which ranked as the fifth best for a women's team in the NCAA. The men's team posted a 3.56 team GPA.

Q & A with Coach Erin Howarth

What was it like winning the OVC? How did you feel once it was announced?

Winning the Ohio Valley cross-country championships was an unforgettable feeling. After watching ECU go up to get that trophy for the last 10 championships (I started here in 2010), it felt surreal for it to be at EIU instead. Winning the OVC is something we have talked about as a program since the last time EIU won the championship in 2005. So many past alums have contributed to this win, in getting the team and the culture and the expectations better and higher year after year. When it was finally announced that we had won, I ran over to the team as they were cooling down and we all jumped up and down, hugged, and some collapsed onto the grass with heavy emotion.

Can you tell me a little about what winning the OVC means to you or the team?

It was about two years ago that we started talking about winning the OVC championships and giving a national appearance a true chance. Looking at it with a wider lens and a larger perspective, I could see that if we kept everyone together for one more year, we could have something really special. So, in 2019 I redshirted Dustin Hatfield and Marcus Skinner and continued to develop some of the younger guys who were really starting to show some real shades of greatness. With the cancellation of the 2020 fall season, some of the team really got angry and some were really grieving the loss of what we had prepared so long for, and some were just numb. It took some time to get everyone back together on the same page again, but once the NCAA announced that the cross-country season would be held in winter, it seemed to give everyone some hope again and a purpose for their training. It was certainly a rough fall in many ways, but through that adversity, this team grew and definitely focused again on the original goal of winning OVCs. Going through all that together made the win all that more special.



Erin Howarth

Did you prepare for the season differently this year?

We definitely prepared for the season differently because it was changed to the winter as opposed to the original fall season. We trained the same and did many of the same workouts as we would in the fall, but with COVID and the terrible weather we experienced through much of mid-February, we were forced to be much more flexible and malleable with what we were doing and when we were doing it. Again, they reacted beautifully. They certainly have learned to be flexible in all that they do.

What was it like coaching cross country this year, especially with COVID as a factor?

Coaching was more stressful than ever before with COVID as a major factor. We did what we could to be extra safe and physically healthy while also doing our best to ensure everyone was happy and mentally healthy too. Those weren't always easy to do simultaneously though. I think everyone would agree that managing mental health throughout COVID is a top priority; this team did a great job of keeping each other in check and remembering that in order to be successful, it has to be fun too. As soon as it feels like a job or practice becomes something you "have" to do instead of something you "get" to do, you'll never be as good of a team as you otherwise could be.

What was it like winning Coach of the Year?

I certainly was not expecting to earn the Coach of the Year award. I was surprised. But without the student athletes and all the hard work they put in every single day and the dedication they have to the sport and to each other, I would never even have a chance at receiving that. So, it's really their award. I am thankful I have the team that I have.

Photos by EIU Athletics, Interview by Elizabeth Wood; Spread Design by Lauren Frick



Men's Soccer

Panthers secure win in season finale

It took the entire COVID season, but the men's soccer team won its first game on its last try, at home April 17, defeating Summit-League rival Western Illinois 2-1 with goals from sophomore forward Maxwell Allen and redshirt junior forward Reed Axthelm.

Eastern had tied WIU to open its conference season in a February match in Iowa. Axthelm scored in that game as well.

Goalie Jon Burke had 11 saves in the game. Burke, who ranks fifth in career saves with 201, led the league in total saves this season with 69.

Ronnie Bouemboue started his head coaching career with the Panthers just as the pandemic started, coming to Eastern in spring 2020 from an assistant coaching job at IUPUI. He recorded his first win as a head coach with the WIU match.

In October the league released the spring conference schedule, starting with the WIU match for Eastern. The schedule featured Thursday and Saturday matches against the same opponents. In addition, no men's soccer championship was scheduled.

The Panthers returned 12 players with 13 first-year players.

The Panthers finished the season 1-8-2 overall and 1-7-2 in the league.

Axthelm was the team's leading scorer with three, followed by Allen, senior forward Shady Omar and junior midfielder Alejandro Lurbe each with two and freshman midfielder Julian Smith with one.

Burke capped off the season being named to the Summit League's Academic All-League team. Burke, a redshirt junior, academically is a graduate student in sports administration, hoping to finish in fall 2021.



Maxwell Allen, a sophomore majoring in pre-physical therapy, kicks the ball away from the goal.



Johnathan Bruke, a redshirt junior majoring in sports administration, gets ready to defend the goal with his teammates during a game against Kansas City on March 6.



The team celebrates after Shady Omar, a senior majoring in marketing, made a goal. Eastern tied the game at 2-2 against Kansas City.

Photos by Elizabeth Wood; Spread Design by Lauren Frick

Women's Soccer

Panthers play shortened spring season

EIU hosted Morehead State, SIUE, Southeast Missouri, Eastern Kentucky and Jacksonville State as teams in the OVC played a 10-match conference schedule this spring.

The OVC, adjusting to COVID protocols, had soccer play its fall season in the spring spring, playing Tuesday and Friday matches with alternating matches between home and away, so no team is on the road for both matches in the same week.

EIU finished the season with a 2-7-1 record, ending the season with a 4-0 loss to OVC regular season champion Murray State.

A high point was defeating Jacksonville State 3-2 in its last home game of the season March 30 at Lakeside Field.

The Panthers, who had scored just two goals in the first eight matches of the season, collected two goals in the first 12 minutes against JSU. Senior midfielder Itxasco Aguero scored her second goal of the day, the match winner, in the 63rd minute.

Aguero, who led the team in scoring this season with five points, was named second team All-OVC selection.

The team had many international players: Ash Harvie from Australia; Mara Kades from Germany; Serra Pizano, a native of New York who attended high school in Singapore; Daniela Bermeo, Pilar Barrio, Aguero and Eva Munoz from Spain; Victoria Wharton from Canada; and Niondina Nystrom from Sweden.

In addition, four players transferred in four NCAA Division I players: Michaela Danyo and Zenaya Barnes from Grambling State; Lauren Frick from Hampton; and Amanda DaSilva from Evansville.

Head coach Jake Plant, is in his third season. He graduated from Eastern in 2014 and was a member of the men's soccer team.

Honors:

The women's team won 2020-21 OVC Team Sportsmanship Award for soccer. It is the second time in the last three seasons that Eastern Illinois women's soccer has won this award and the third time in program history (2014-15).



Lauren Frick, a junior majoring in journalism, passes the ball to her teammates.



Eva Munzo, a senior majoring in biological sciences, tries to steal the ball during the March 8 game against SIUE.



Jenna Little, a freshman majoring in biological sciences, chases after the ball after SIUE passes it.



Kenzie Balcerak, a sophomore majoring in management, tries to steal the ball.



Daniela Bermeo, a sophomore majoring in sports management, prepares to trap the ball.

Photos by Elizabeth Wood; Spread Design by Lauren Frick

Panther Football:

Season Wrap-up

The 2020 football season was one of the many things altered by COVID-19 over the past year.

The fall 2020 season for the Panthers became the spring 2021 season, as Eastern played a shortened, conference-only schedule from late February through early April.

The seven-game season ended up being even shorter for the Panthers. Their season finale, which also would have been their final home game, had to be canceled because of virus issues with their opponent Austin Peay.

The Panthers ended the season 1-5, finishing last in the OVC for the second straight season. But despite the last-place finish, there were some moments and performances that stood out this spring on the football field.

The lone win of the season came against Tennessee Tech on March 21 at O'Brien Field. The 28-20 victory was the first home win for the Panthers since Nov. 10, 2018.

It was also the first career win for freshman quarterback Otto Kuhns, who split time with senior Harry Woodbery at quarterback during the season.

Kuhns was 12-of-19 passing in the game for 153 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Both touchdowns were caught by freshman wide receiver Arron Foulkes, the first two touchdowns of his college career.

Woodbery also had a chance to have a productive performance, with his coming on April 3 against nationally-ranked Jacksonville State, the eventual OVC champions.

With the cancellation of the Austin Peay game the following week, this ended up being Woodbery's final start as a Panther.

He went 14-of-30 for 220 yards and a touchdown, and also scored on a run that brought the Panthers within one score of the Gamecocks in the final seconds of the third quarter. Jacksonville State would score twice in the fourth quarter to put the game away, but it was a strong sendoff performance for Woodbery.

Had the Panthers been able to play Austin Peay, Woodbery would have had a chance to crack the top-10 in career passing yards at Eastern, needing just 183 yards to do so.

He ended up finishing his career with 3,637 yards, the 14th-most in school history and just 10

yards short of 13th place.

The Panthers also had several players receive postseason honors from the OVC.

Redshirt-senior defensive back Mark Williams ended his career at Eastern by earning second team All-OVC honors.

Williams has been one of the most effective pass defenders in school history, ending his career tied for fifth in all time with 26 pass breakups.

In the spring, Williams finished tied for eighth in the OVC with 6 passes defended, including 2 interceptions and a touchdown.

Redshirt-freshman wide-receiver Matt Judd, a transfer from Illinois, was also named second team All-OVC as a kick returner.

Judd led the OVC with 298 kick return yards and an average of 24.8 yards per return. His longest return was 53 yards against Tennessee-Martin on March 7. He also caught 5 passes in that game for 73 yards and a touchdown.

Eastern's true standout star of the season was sophomore linebacker Jason Johnson.

He led the OVC with 66 tackles, despite the Panthers only playing six games, and his average of 11 tackles per game was the highest in the conference by nearly 2 tackles per game.

He was named first team All-OVC for his efforts, becoming the first Eastern defender to receive that honor since linebacker Seth McDonald in 2016.

Johnson recorded a season-high 15 tackles in the Panthers' win against Tennessee Tech and was named OVC Defensive Player of the Week that week.

The last time an Eastern defender was named Player of the Week was 2017.

The Panthers are now preparing for the regular 2021 season, which will be taking place in the fall.

Eastern will open the season on the road Aug. 28 against Indiana State. The Panthers will then travel to face SEC opponent South Carolina on Sept. 4 and then play at Dayton the following week.

The home opener will be Sept. 18 against Illinois State, which will be the 109th edition of the Mid-America Classic. The annual rivalry game between the Panthers and Redbirds was canceled last season.

The Homecoming game will take place Oct. 23 against Tennessee State.



Kendi Young, a freshman business major, scores a touchdown during the February 28th football game against Southeast Missouri.



Rodney Young and his wife, Dewonia Young, watch their son, Kendi Young, during the February 28th game against Southeast Missouri. Mr. Young said it felt great to be a spectator again.



Dewayne Cooks Jr., a sophomore majoring in computer technology, gains repossession of the ball during the February 28th football game against Southeast Missouri. Eastern lost 7-47



Kaylee Jagniatkowski, a freshman with an undecided major, cheers for the football team during the February 28 game against Southeast Missouri. For the games, students had to sign up for a ticket raffle online due to limited capacity in the stadium.

Spread Design by Lauren Frick;
Photos by Elizabeth Wood; Story by Adam Tumino

Baseball

Panthers pick up historic series win

On March 11, 2020, Eastern Illinois men's baseball unknowingly played in the last game that would be allowed for 11 months due to the spread of COVID-19. That day, the team took a 9-2 win over the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. 11 months later, on Feb. 20, 2021, not much changed. The team opened up its 2021 season with a doubleheader at Nicholas State University, splitting the series 1-1.

Redshirt sophomore Trey Sweeney, shortstop, showed up for his team during the season-opening doubleheader against Nicholas State University. The redshirt sophomore earned a double in game one, helping the Panthers score two of their four points in the game.

That was just the beginning of a great season for Trey Sweeney and the Panthers. For the first time in program history, on March 6, 2021, the Panthers beat Kansas State University in game two of a three-game series with a score of 6-5. Redshirt freshman Den Snapp and redshirt junior Dalton Doyle both recorded solo home runs during the historic win against K-State.

Shortly after the Panthers returned from their historic win at K-State, the Panthers picked up another win during their first home game against Bellarmine University with a score of 8-1. With that win, the Panthers won their fourth series in a row of the 2021 season.

Trey Sweeney

Trey Sweeney has been named to the Brooks Wallace Award watch list. 100 of the top collegiate baseball players in Division I have been chosen to the list. Sweeney is one of five OVC members to be selected.

This season, Sweeney has managed a .413/.525/.761 slash line, a conference-high 45 hits, and an NCAA leading 44 RBI this season. On the defensive end, Sweeney has 41 putouts, 77 assists, and a .975 fielding percentage.



photos courtesy of EIU Athletics



A coach talks to Lucas Diluca, a junior majoring in teacher licensure option, before he bats during the game against Murray State on March 9.



A player waits in the dugout as the team takes the field against Murray State.



Logan Eickhoff, a sophomore majoring in management, congratulates Keith Kerrigan, a senior majoring in sports management, on his home run, while other team members cheer him on, during the game against Murray State on March 12.

Story by Autumn Schultz; Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photos by Elizabeth Wood

Softball

Panthers pick up where they left off

Last season, Eastern Illinois women's softball team was able to get through several games under the guidance of new head coach, Tara Archibald. By the time that the 2020 season can to an abrupt end, the Panthers had been soaring high with a two-game winning streak.

That same momentum from last season carried over for the long-awaited 2021 season debut against Jackson State on Feb. 21, 2021. Sweeping two games against Jackson State was very exciting for the Panthers, considering they had to delay the start of their 2021 season to due weather issues and COVID-19 protocols.

The next day, there was no change for the women's softball team. It swept the series against Southern University, ending each game in five innings by the run rule. They won the first game 9-0 before finishing the day strong with a 10-0 win. The team improved to 4-0 on the season, having allowed only one unearned run through the two-opening series of the season.

The women's softball players were not the only ones having fun this season. Archibald was able to have a family vs. family competition in what was known as the "Glasco Bowl" during the game against the Ragin Cajuns on Feb. 23, 2021.

Archibald was pitted against her father, Gerry Glasco, the head coach of the Ragin Cajuns with the hopes of beating him and his team. However, the team suffered a 0-9 loss to Glasco and his team.

Redshirt sophomore Morgan Lewis, outfielder, led the team with a .352 batting average and a .381 slugging percentage.

Notable Players

Haley Mitchell, a redshirt senior and first basemen, made history on Feb. 27, 2021, when she became the sixth player in school history to reach the 200-career hit mark.

Hannah Cravens, redshirt sophomore and infielder, was named OVC Softball Player of the Week on March 1, 2021 with a .385 batting average, 10 hits, 10 runs, 4 doubles, 3 home runs, and 8 RBIs.

On April 17, 2021, **Megan Burton**, a redshirt junior, became the first Panther of the year to break the single season home run record with 13 home runs on the season.

Panther

The Eastern Illinois men’s golf team placed ninth at both the Benbow Invitational and at the Murray State Invite this season.

At the Benbow Invitational on March 9, 2021, the Panthers shaved 17 strokes off the team average to shoot 317 in the final round of the invitational after shooting 334 on the opening day.

Pierce Allord, a redshirt sophomore, led the Panthers with a 36-hole total of 159. He opened the invitational in a tie for 20th with a round of 79 and finished tied for 25th.

Redshirt freshman's Preston Smith and Ben Lanman both had the best rounds of the invitational for EIU, each carding a round of 78. Smith had a 36-hole total of 161 to finish tied for 36th. Lanman had a 36-hole score of 166 to place tied for 46th.

At the Murray State Invite, in the opening 18 holes Ben Lanman was the top EIU golfer with a round of 74. Keegan Gowin, a redshirt freshman, closed the second 18 holes on opening day with a round of 71 to stand tied for 20th.

For the women’s team, a big highlight for the season was placing 15th overall at the Bowling Green Dolores Black Falcon Invitational.

Monique Peterson, a redshirt sophomore, was the Panthers' top performer.

Men

Head Coach: Mike Moncel

Pierce Allord

Keegan Gowin

Ben Lanman

Grant Mascal

Juan Pablo Ng

Sebastian Olrog

Callaway Smith

Preston Smith

Women

Head Coach: Mike Moncel

Sara Guetersloh

Ryanne Jackson

Cameron Krager

Mckenize O’Brien

Monique Peterson

Isabel Spanburg

Jaeden Workman

Golf



T R A C K & *Men and women's teams win big Blue Classic*

One of the best highlights for both the men's and women's track and field teams at Eastern was winning the EIU Big Blue Classic at O'Brien Field on April 9, 2021.

The men's team was awarded first place out of 12 teams with a score of 248 points. The women's team was first place out of 11 teams with 155 points.

Together, both teams posted 11 individual first place finishes and placed first in three of four relay events.

In addition to the big team wins, three Panthers posted EIU career top 10 performances during the meet.

Adam Swanson, a sophomore, continued to improve on his season during the middle-distance races as he led start to finish in both the 1,500- and 800-meter events. His winning time in the 1,500 meter was 3:50.72 while his winning time in the 800 meter was 1:50.97.

Nick Oakley, a junior, finished third in the 1,500-meter race with a time of 3:57.14.

Gregory Downs (sophomore), Joe Smith (graduate student), and Ramsey Hunt (freshman) all picked up top three finishes in the sand jumps. Downs was second in the long jump at 22'0.75". Smith was second in the triple jump at 49'1". Hunt was third in the triple jump at 45'6.50". Bradley Olysav was third in the men's shot put to close out EIU men's top three finishers in field events.

For the women's team, senior Kate Bushue posted a career top ten performance. She posted a pair of top three finishes in both distance events for the Panther women. She was second in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:38.62 and second in the 800 meter with a time of 2:15.97.

Clayre Shaver, a freshman, and Morgan Atchison, a senior, rounded out the EIU women's top three finishers in field events. Shaver was second in the shot put with a throw of 41'10.50". Atchison was second in the javelin with a throw of 119'7".

F



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D

National Qualifier

Redshirt freshman Adam Swanson, pictured on the right, finished his season at the NCAA National Track and Field Championships in Eugene, OR. He placed 21st in the 800-meter run. Swanson was the first Panther since 2014 to the National Championship.



Tennis

Men

The Eastern Illinois men’s tennis team wrapped up the 2021 season with a hard fought OVC contest and four players tied for the team lead. The Panthers lost a hard fought OVC contest 5-2 at Austin Peay on April 9, 2021. Christos Kyrillou, a redshirt sophomore, won his third straight singles match in OVC play at No. 2 singles beating Oliver Andersson in a three-set tiebreak. Kyrillou won 5-7, 6-4, 11-9. In No. 3 singles Anton Damberg held off Charles Courteau winning in three sets by a 5-7, 6-4, 10-2 score. EIU's other win in the match was at No. 4 singles with Thomas Wallace winning 6-0, 6-2. After the OVC contest at Austin Peay, four players Charles Courteau, Kyrillou, Cameron Slabbert and Karan Srivastava all had four singles wins and tied for the team lead. Christos Kyrillou was named OVC Men’s Tennis Player of the Week on April 7, 2021. However, with the loss at Austin Peay, the men’s team was eliminated from the OVC Tournament race for spring 2021.

Women

Despite opening up the season with a loss, the women’s team picked up its first OVC win on April 10, 2021 against Murray State with a score of 4-3. Rachel Papavasiliopoulos, Elizaveta Bukraba-Ulanova and Addison Brown all won in singles in the final three matches to clinch the win. For Papavasiliopoulos, it moved her record for the season to 9-2 in singles play at No. 1 singles. For Brown, it was her first OVC career win. The women’s team earned a 3.67 GPA for the fall 2020 semester.

Women's Roster

Addison Brown	Rachel Papavasiliopoulos
Elizaveta Bukraba-Ulanova	Claire Perez-Korinko
Karla Contreras	Ashlee Shinabery
Lauren Ellis	Kaitlyn Snyder
Christine Gouws	Brittney Steven



Addison Brown, a freshman majoring in psychology, receives the ball during a match against Belmont on April 2. Eastern lost 1-4.



Elizaveta Bakraba-ulanova, a freshman majoring in business, hits the ball during a match against Belmont on April 2.

Men's Roster

Leighton Brandon
Kyle Burton
Quinn Camfield
Charles Courteau
Juan Carlos Garrido

Daniel Hernandez
Christos Kyrillou
Max Pilipovic-Kljajic
Ruslan Pultz
Pau Riera

Cameron Slabbert
Karan Srivastava
Rohan Srivastava
Thomas Wallace

Story by Autumn Schultz ; Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photos by Elizabeth Wood and Ashanti Thomas

Eastern athletic trainers adapt to new COVID-19 restrictions

Jehan Ayap, right, is an assistant athletic trainer at Eastern. She is responsible for the women's soccer and basketball teams. Below, Ayap discusses the many challenges the sports medicine staff has faced during a year riddled with COVID-19 restrictions, as well as how the staff had to adapt to still provide adequate treatment for the athletes.



Photo courtesy of EIU Athletics

Q: How many members are on the sports medicine staff?

A: On staff, the sports medicine department has currently five full-time certified athletic trainers and three certified graduate assistant athletic trainers that provide services to 18 Division I sports across two conferences. Each staff member is responsible for one or two sports, but may provide coverage to all student-athletes in the athletic department when necessary.

Q: How many games will the athletic training staff have to work during the spring semester? What is this number normally?

A: Too many to count. I don't think I could count, even if we weren't in a pandemic. Obviously compressing all sports to one semester there would also have to be a compression in games or contests. Scheduling seasons is a hard task, I can only imagine how much more difficult it is to schedule all fall, winter, and spring sports into an even more compressed timeline. I can't count them amount of games or contests, but I can say the amount of hours needed to work them have increased SUBSTANTIALLY. Athletic trainers worked super long hours before COVID, so working hours in the COVID era sometimes don't feel like it ever stops.

Q: How many people do you think should be on staff to be able to adequately support all of the sports playing at the same time?

A: 12 can give some breathing room. 14 or 15 would be even better not just for a semester like this but just in general.

Q: What have been the biggest challenges that you have faced as a trainer because of COVID-19? What are the biggest challenges the training staff as a whole has faced?

A: Staying mentally aware. COVID fatigue is real and that's been a challenge to stay conscious of continuing sacrifices that are made for the betterment of the bigger picture. We have over 400 student-athletes and getting them to follow the guidelines and protocols in place is a big challenge. Another challenge is COVID itself. Our job as a sports medicine department is to ensure that these student-athletes are safe and healthy. We do not want them to get sick from COVID or from other illness that are out there, so coordinating the proper care they need in order for them to return to their sport safely has been a minefield to navigate at times, but we still have our wits about us so the things we have put in place are working.

Q: What are ways treatment and rehab have changed? Are there any treatments you aren't able to do anymore because of COVID-19?

A: Manual therapies like massage and have decreased significantly. Person-to-person interaction has decreased as well. As a healthcare provider, the idea of personal interaction and being hands on with a student-athletes' rehab has taken a hit. Athletic trainers want to be there for their patients but to protect ourselves and our patients we've had to take a look and reinvent that experience. Mask wearing is a big thing we practice as well as good hygiene like washing hands. Reducing the amount of student athletes in a training room by making it appointment based is also another avenue we have had to use. Even limiting how providing water to teams has changed by giving individual water bottles to each student-athlete, limiting cooler use to decrease passing germs through high contact areas. A lot of little details that would be after thoughts pre-COVID era have now come to the forefront of precaution and practice.

Q: What was the process of transitioning into all of the new COVID-19 protocols like? Have things started to run smoother?

A: When implementing new policies and protocols especially in a setting like college athletics, there is a curve and adaptation that must be had in the beginning. For example, a temperature and symptoms screen is done for all student-athletes in order for them to use any athletic facility. That screening is done in the mornings. Getting over 400 student-athletes to wake up in the morning is a tall task that we are still trying to reach. Administering COVID tests took some time to transition. The thing is all of these COVID protocols and policies were new. New to staff. New to the student-athletes. New to the athletic department as a whole. Now with being in the pandemic era for over a year, some things have gotten smoother and some are still constantly changing.

Q: What does the busiest week this semester look like for you?

A: I work with women's basketball and women's soccer, so the weeks where those teams overlap are the most hectic. But with this year the way it is, every week seems pretty darn hectic. There is a constant shuffle of our staff on where each staff member is. Are some traveling with a teams on the road, if so, who can cover the other teams not traveling. Which staff member can go with a certain team or which staff member is available to cover this practice or that home game? It takes constant communication from each person in the sports medicine department to make sure we can provide the best care that we can.

A Day in the Life

5:15 a.m.

Arrive at the training room to prepare for day and screen in athletes with 6 a.m. training

6-8 a.m.

Student athlete COVID-19 symptom screenings

8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Treatment and rehab for women's soccer players

12-3 p.m.

Treatment and rehab for women's basketball players

3-8 p.m.

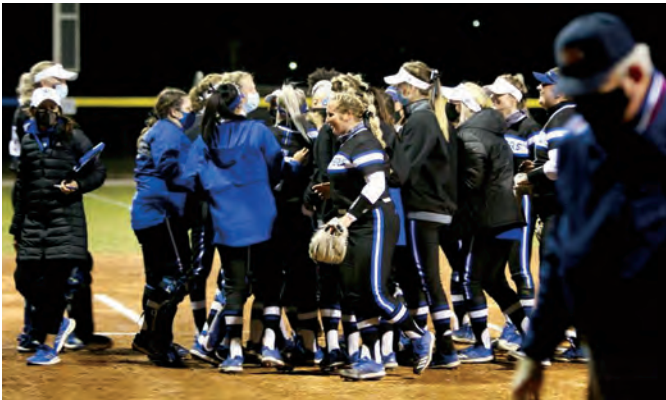
Attend teams' practices

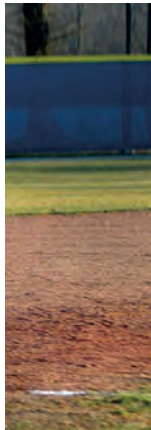
8-10 p.m.

Leave work after preparing the training room for the next day

Interview and Spread Design by Lauren Frick







Panther Athletics

2020-21



Panther

Panthers play 16-game spring season

The women's volleyball season was halted until the spring due to the COVID pandemic.

The team played 16 games and ended its season 2-14.

The first win came on March 8, 2021, where the Panthers won all three matches against Tennessee State. Laurel Bailey, a senior, had 19 kills and 8 digs. Bailey is the 29th player in Eastern's history to have 1,000 digs.

The second win of the season came on March 15, 2021, where they won 3 matches to 1. Daniel Allen, a junior, helped her team defeat Murray State with 21 kills. Bailey, had 14 kills and 2 blocks.

Both Allen and Bailey, along with redshirt junior Kylie Michael, helped throughout their season producing the most points from the team: Bailey 220, Michael 141, and Allen 126.

The team ended its shortened season with a loss against SIUE. The Panthers lost all matches but came out with impressive stats.

Bailey had 11 kills and 10 assists, Michael with 8 kills, and Bailey Chandler, a junior, had 27 assists during the matches.

As the season ended, Bailey might have played in her last game at Eastern, but not her final game. She made the second team All Ohio Valley Conference with a 3.66 kills per set average which was the sixth best in all the OVC.

The team is coached by Sara Thomas.



Ashley Sharkus, a freshman majoring in biological sciences, gets ready to serve the ball as her teammates make shark fins above their heads in support during the March 3 game against Tennessee State.

Volleyball



Ireland Hieb, a sophomore majoring in management, spikes the ball during the match against Tennessee State in Lantz Arena.

2020-21 Roster

Ireland Hieb
Christian Martinez Mundo
Mackenzie Duvall
Bailey Chandler
Elisavet Papageorgiou
Ella Collins
Kameryn Sillmon

Laurel Bailey
Ashley Sharkus
Hannah Sieg
Lynsey Steffen
Danielle Allen
Emily Wilcox
Kylie Michael

Spread Design by Lauren Frick; Photos by Elizabeth Wood

Walsworth



Seniors

News 2020-2021

May

8 - EIU held three graduation ceremonies at O’Brien, a fourth was canceled due to expected rain. Students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were encouraged to attend the third ceremony but could attend any one they wished.



From one alumni to another: A letter to those unable to walk at graduation

Dear Fellow Alumni,

You may not know my name or recognize me in a momentary passing on campus. Yet for many of you we were to meet, on one of the happiest days of your EIU experience. My name is Matt Piescinski. I have lived on and around campus every year since 1975.

I have done many assignments for the university over those four decades, but the most enjoyable of them involves Commencement Day. For the past 26 years I have served as Master of Ceremonies at Commencement, saying the names of all graduates as they cross the stage to receive their diplomas. That was the meeting we were to have in 2020. Now as I write this note to you it has been more than a year since I donned my academic garb, given the class its final university lecture, and heralded their accomplishments to family and friends. The loss and disappointment of “No Commencement 2020” has stung me as much as it has stung you.

I have twice known the joy of an EIU Commencement Day as a student (in 1979 and 1991). Creating the day for the graduate-to-be however, is no trivial task. It involves a small army of workers and a semester of planning. In my case I get to review all the names a month in advance. A typical Spring Semester Commencement consumes the entire day. For me it begins at 8am and ends no sooner than 8 pm. If I am lucky, I might get a 15-minute break between each session, one of which I wolf down something for lunch. The hour before each ceremony I am on duty working with name pronunciations and then giving the class final instructions on what happens during the ceremony. During the commencement session on stage, I must be expedient, accurate and audible with each name I am given. Regardless of how long the speeches take in a session, I must bring each ceremony to an end as close to 90 minutes as possible. Yes, I am exhausted at the end of it all, but happy and proud to have had a part in the milestone memories made that day.

While we all mourned the loss of a special day in our academic lives, the economic pain of the pandemic was about to pound EIU and Coles County in a way not felt in fifty years. Three IHSA State Championships bringing thousands of people to town were gone in a flash. Not a single marching band or music camp came in residence to campus. These activities have a huge impact on EIU’s economic health and recruiting future. The silence in May was particularly depressing to me as I announced at all the IHSA Championships, as well as High School meets both before and after May all around Illinois. Like millions of others in America the pandemic brought me to a personal if not unique unemployment line.

I used to have a quick humorous description of my work at Commencement. I would tell folks that no one gets out of here without going through my Toll Booth. Well, I can not use that line anymore, because an entire class has proved it wrong, the unique Class of 2020. With that in mind let me give that back to you as a charge moving forward...Keep Proving Them Wrong. Keep Proving Them Wrong that you can’t overcome the challenge of the pandemic. Keep Proving Them Wrong that graduates of EIU don’t make a difference in the world. Keep Proving Them Wrong that you can not teach and lead and make the world around you better than you found it. I say that if you go into the world from EIU with that challenge in your spirit, the name I was unable to say at your graduation will gain an honor beyond what I could ever bring it.

-Matt Piescinski, '79, '91



Matt Piescinski reads names off during a previous year's graduation ceremony.

Page design by Logan Raschke;
Photo courtesy of The Keep;
Letter from Matt Piescinski



Walsworth



The Voice of Eastern Illinois ...

In 1968, WELH, Eastern Illinois' first radio station studio, opened in Booth Library. At the time, it was made up of a staff of 33 students and broadcast exclusively on campus. When Matt Piescinski joined the staff as a student in 1975, it had moved to Coleman Hall.

"I had a lot of affinity for, and enjoyment from doing voice work and public speaking in high school," Piescinski said. "When I got here, it was like 'Yeah! I'd like to be a part of this radio station.'"

Piescinski says they would play music, read weather and deliver news to students on campus through phone lines to transmitters in the basements of the dorm halls.

"The people who founded the station lived in Lincoln and Douglas halls," Piescinski said. "They built their transmitter out of a 'Popular Science' magazine article."

Despite having a degree in life sciences, which led to a long career in food manufacturing, he enjoyed the public speaking and broadcasting experience. Anyone was allowed to join the station, Piescinski said, as none of the members while he was on staff was a speech major.

This laid the groundwork for Piescinski to be the voice of many events at Eastern Illinois and around Coles County. Piescinski was the public address announcer for EIU football and basketball games for many years, and currently does the Illinois high school state cross country and track and field championships, and various high school events.

Piescinski was in the booth or at midcourt when notable EIU athletes Sean



Matt Piescinski reads names during the 2021 spring graduation ceremony. At the graduation, students who didn't walk due to graduation getting canceled in the spring and fall semesters of 2020 were allowed to walk.

... returns!

Payton, Tony Romo, Kevin Duckworth and Henry Domercant competed for the Panthers.

Where most people hear him speak is at Eastern's commencement ceremonies. His voice is easily recognizable, and one that as a student, you certainly want to hear, as Piescinski says the name of each student who walks across the stage to receive a diploma.

If you graduate with honors, he says that, too.

"Anyone who has graduated from Eastern in the last quarter-century, I've said their name," Piescinski said.

Eastern Illinois continues to seek out Piescinski for special occasions, such as the university's centennial, the presidential inauguration, or other public events that need Piescinski's easily recognizable voice.

One thing that is a must for each student who comes across the campus, is that you need to at least hear his voice once.

"A couple of friends of mine who are coaches at other schools, they ran at Eastern in a state track meet and heard my voice involved in their race," Piescinski said. "20 years later, they're calling me, 'We want our kids to hear your voice and know and tell them, that's the voice you want to hear saying your name in late May. Don't forget that voice. Your goal, is to hear it one more time.'"

Editor's note: WELH made the move to Buzzard Hall in 1984 and was transformed into WEIU-FM after the school received approval from the FCC to broadcast its network over the air. WEIU was placed on channel 51 to give the school its own radio and TV stations. WEIU TV is now a PBS affiliate, and Hit-Mix 88.9 FM continues to broadcast EIU football and men's and women's basketball games.

Story by Race Archibald; Photos and page design by Elizabeth Wood



Graduating at last

After a year, the class of 2020 walks the stage with class of 2021

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, May 5-6 in the Lantz Fieldhouse, seniors picked up their cap and gown orders. After the ceremony, students returned them—but kept their tassels.

A Lavender Graduation to honor the GSD and ally students graduating with either their baccalaureate or master's degrees took place at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 7.

Graduation: Saturday, May 8 - O'Brien Field

9 a.m. – College of Health and Human Services and the Graduate School

Sara Tate, a human services program administration major, spoke to the College of Health and Human Services. Jill Bowers, instructor in human services program administration, served as mentor.

Guest speaker was Tim Butler, who spoke at 9 a.m. and noon. He graduated from EIU in 1990 with a degree in political science, has served as a state representative for Logan, Menard, Sangamon and Tazewell counties since 2015.

noon – College of Education and the Graduate School



Faith Morris, a public relations major, spoke to the 3 p.m. ceremony. She discussed how Eastern's close knit community had impacted her and opened and closed with an ice breaker: "Hi, my name is Faith Morris, my major is public relations, and one fun fact about me is that I am a graduate of Eastern Illinois University."

Valerie Kuhns, a special education major, represented the College of Education. Amy Rosenstein, professor of special education, served as mentor.

3 p.m. – Lumpkin College of Business and Technology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School

Nicole Miah, a finance major, represented the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology. William Minnis, an associate professor in the School of Business, served as mentor.

Faith Morris, a public relations major, represented the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Claudia Janssen Danyi, an associate professor in the School of Communication and Journalism, served as mentor.

Guest speaker was Tim Burke, who graduated from Eastern with bachelor's in mathematics in 1971, and with master's in guidance and counseling in 1972. He retired in 2017 as a CFO of a Chicago-based international investment bank.

Under Illinois COVID-19 guidelines, O'Brien Stadium could have a capacity of 20% to ensure appropriate social distancing. Students participating in the 9 a.m.,



Rachel Humes, a senior majoring in 2D studio art, picks up her cap and gown in the Fieldhouse during finals week.

noon and 3 p.m. ceremonies received six tickets; students participating in the 6 p.m. ceremony received four tickets. (The 6 p.m. ceremony was moved to 3 due to rain.)

Individuals with proof of full vaccination also were able to enter without a ticket. Guests had to have had

final doses no later than April 24 to be considered fully vaccinated.

All patrons and graduates had to wear masks covering their mouth and nose at all times when entering and moving around O'Brien field.

All seating in the venue was set for social distancing and pods of seating and designated areas were marked off.

Each ceremony was live-streamed with WEIU-TV.



David Glassman, Eastern's president, gives the welcoming speech at graduation.

Khyla Abazi
Sidney Abrams
Bria Adams
Humaira Ahmed
Hallie Allen



Chelsea Allen-Labaume
Hassan Alqam
Wylie Anderson
Shae Ashley
Sarah Aten



Jazmine Avery
Elaina Bach
Loren Badzinski
Ashley Bartley
Julia Beaugureau



Madison Beekler
Carrie Benjamin
Miranda Bennett
Corey Bentley
Emily Bernard



Gabriel
Bielenberg-Gilbert
Jeremy Billy
Tricia Black-Green
Kelsey Blacker
Keshyra Bluminberg

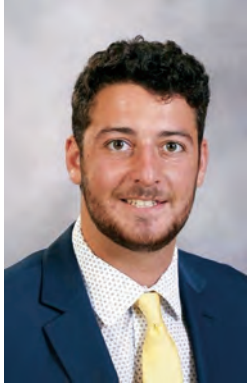




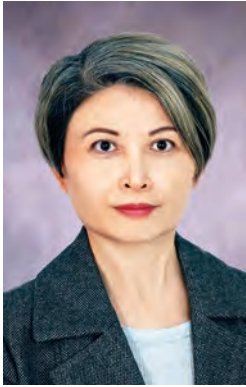
Marcus Bornslater
Cloe Bourdages
Brittany Britton
Mariah Brotzman
Nicole Brown



Alicia Buerster
Megan Burton
Gisselle Cabrera
Brooklynn Calcaterra
Kyle Callahan



Quinn Camfield
Shariah Campbell
Diana Cardenas
George Chavez
Xuanjing Chen



Yushu Chen
Carra Chloe
Kimberly Clark
Theresa Coleman
Tia Coleman



Sadiya Collins
Jasmin Conyers
Isabella Cox
Rachel Cox
Olivia Crank

Blayke Cutts
Timothy Dal Pino
Mia Davila
Karina Davis
Chantal Davison



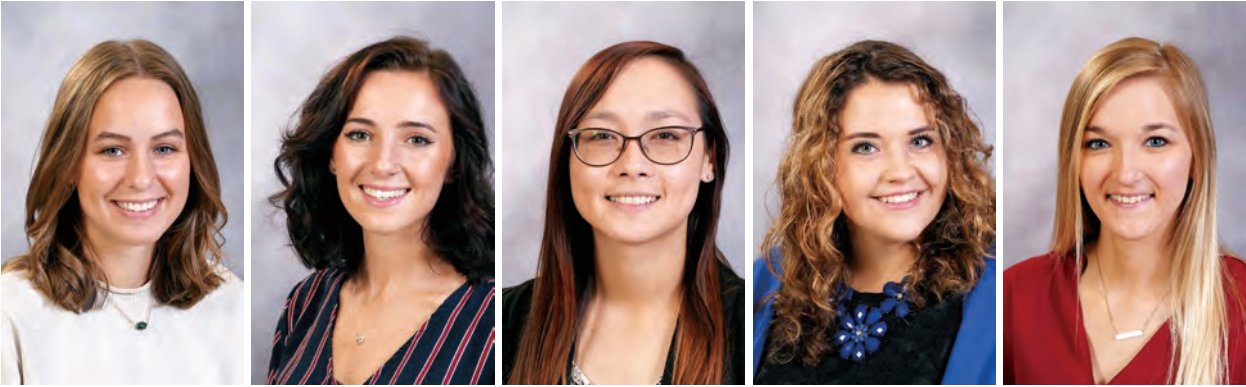
Candy Deaville
Maya Dent
Essence Dildy
Brody Donsbach
Shanae Dowell



Karla Drum
Rachel Dunbar
Katelyn Eddington
Danielle Epley
Elijah Eshun



Abby Fisher
Avani Flanagan
Jessica French
Skylar Fushi
Katherine Gallaher



Brianna Gaston
Arsene Gerengo
Hannah Gillaspie
Anna Goldberg
Itzel Gomez





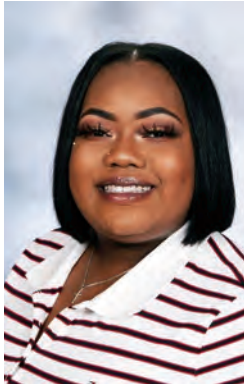
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Gonzalez
Sarah Gompers
Katherine Gray
Ashling Greene
Cynthia Griffith



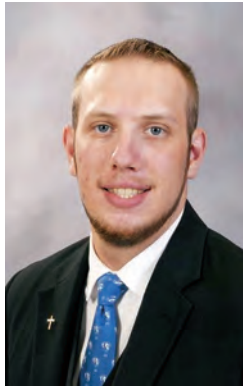
Debyn Gritzmacher
Sara Guetersloh
Fernando Gutierrez
Clayton Gutterridge
Makena Hanner



Keah Hartman
Alyssa Hawes
Norriana Hayes
Brittany Hebeda
Savanna Henderson



Shandon Herschberger
Jenny Hildebrand
Johnnesha Hunt
Emily Ingram
Michel Inman



Chloe Irish
Avery Jackson
Tytiana Jemison
Mayla Johanpeter
Allen Johanson

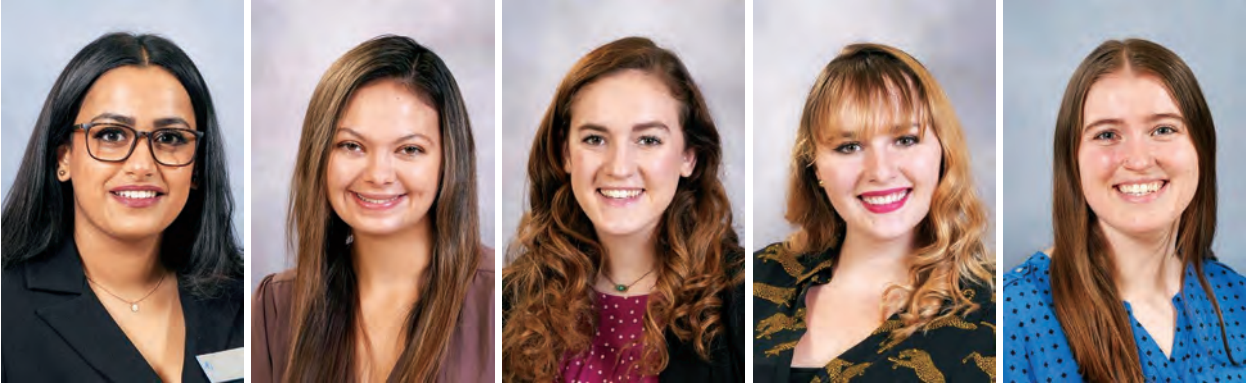
Amanda Johnson
Dominique Johnson
Monique Johnson
Tahzae Johnson
Daniel Jones



Shravanya Kandi
Christine Kariuki
Aidan Kennedy
Claire Kennedy
Whinter Kent



Noor Ul Haash
Khamisani
Taylor Kilgallen
Alison Kirk
Cynthia Kmety
Nora Kollar



Brooke Komor
Allison Kukman
Kendall Kurza
Emily Lane
Rachel Lanham

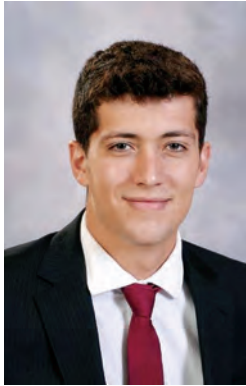


Lauren Lappin
Shaunice Lassiter
Everett Lau
Abby Lee
Caixia Liu





Yifei Ma
Rachel Mannen
Andrisell Martinez
Jessica Marvin
Alexia May



Monica Maybell
Jaidan Mccarley
Jesse Medler
Edgar Mesa
Christina Monroe



Tarryn Monti
Faith Morris
Mariah Mosberger
Jaselyn Nacke
Courtney Neely



Prathika Nelikanti
Brierre Nelson
Mckenzie O'brien
Iyare Ojoojo
Oladele Oladipo



Sebastian Olrog
Daniel Osei Agyemang
Karleshianey Pace
Shae Page
Grace Patterson

Walsworth

Carrie Peadro
Sean Peck
Janet Pernell
Porsha Peterson-Himes
Tessa Philpot



Ashlynn Pinney
Madeline Plesnicar
Marcus Powell
Brooke Prehoda
Logan Raschke



Skylar Redmond
Karena Renfro
Justin Richards
Courtney Rieman
Ashlee Robinson



Shataria Robinson
Yarely Robledo
Joshua Rocha
Ali Rodriguez
Kareen Ross



Elizabeth Russell
Marya Saeed
Ibrahim Salami
Keleigh Schaefer
Sara Schmidt





Abigail Schumacher
Jillian Seely
Gloria Sermersheim
Michelle Shaffer
Ayesha Shaik



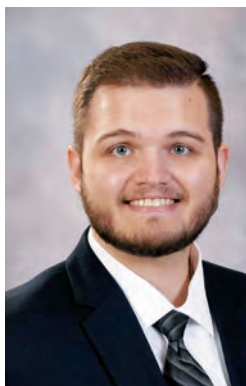
Emily Shaw
Tiange Shi
Lubowa Shimonde
Ashley Short
Ruth Simmons



Ann Sims
Kanika Singh
Patricia Skrodenis
Alexis Smith
Jamiya Smith



Kilee Smith
Miranda Smith
Toluwalase Solomon
Jessica Soria
J'kyra Space



Alexius Spence
Hannah Spillane
Darold Spillman, Jr
Lindsay Spitz
Joseph Stahulak

Taylor Steele
Sudhanya
Sudunagunta
Holly Swisher
Steven Szydlowski
Julie Taggart



Makayla Taylor
Kierra Thomas
Sarah Thomas
Reann Thornton
Abigail Turner



Tissa Vidanagamage
Alexa Vincent
Allison Voyles
Yushi Wang
Craig Ware

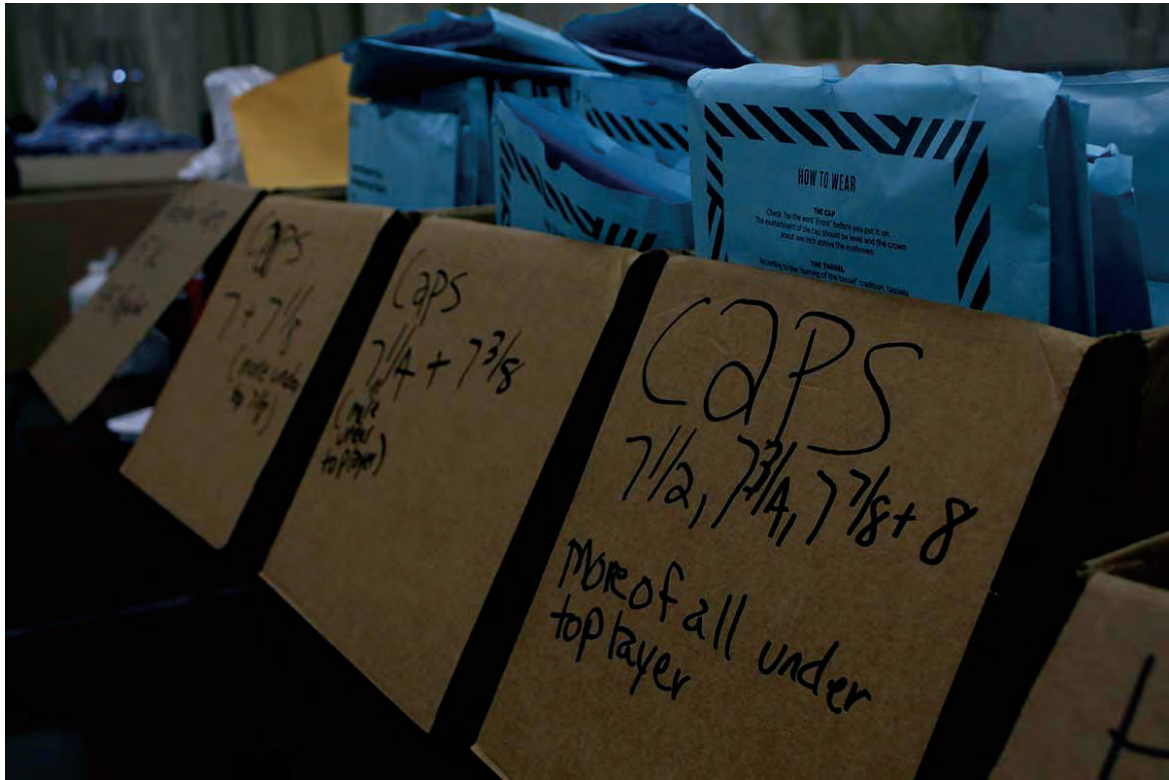


Rylee Watson
Kendal Way
Megan Wendlick
Jacob Williams
Starr Winburn



Noah Wright
Haorui Yin
Kwang Il Yoo
Davalyn York
Erin Zurek





Rows of boxes with caps, gowns and tassels wait on top of tables for seniors to come pick them up in the Fieldhouse.



Nicole Miah, a finance major, delivers her speech for the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology May 8.

Photos by: Elizabeth Wood

Hello again, dear reader.

Despite spring break being canceled and struggling as online classes began to wear down our souls, we have managed to finish the school year intact. Some of us were quarantined or made the long commute to and from Eastern, while others were just trying to hit that 11:59 p.m. D2L Dropbox assignment deadline.

Despite is all, we still managed to finish the 2020-2021 year—the year we all thought would be one to doom our GPAs.

Through these pages we have tried to tell the stories that documented many firsts for Eastern, like Doudna’s first live streamed play, concerts in new venues, online meetings, and disrupted sports schedules.

We have found ways to adapt to the “new normal” of eating in the dining halls or in our dorm rooms, attending online classes, passing time with Tik Tok or Among Us, mask wearing, lots of hand washing, and by putting germ-x in our bags, cars, classroom and homes.

So, dear reader, as we close this year, navigating through a short chapter of our lives at Eastern, we look forward with hope to see a somewhat “normal” school year next fall.

Until then, dear reader.

Walsworth

Yearbook Finished...





By Elizabeth Wood
The cheerleaders perform in the Library Quad during the Panther Marching Band: Live In Concert on Oct. 5. The cheer and dance teams were featured in a group dance choreographed to a mash up of Todrick Hall's songs "Do I Have Your Attention?" and "Nails, Hair, Hips, Heels."







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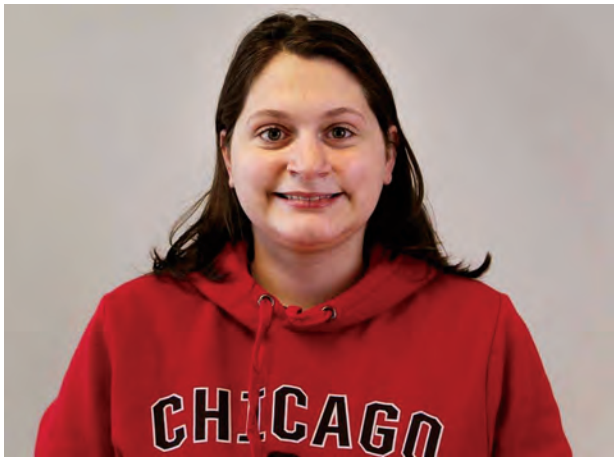
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